



Highland Park
community foundation

2021

IMPACT
REPORT





The Highland Park Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all Highland Park and Highwood residents. Ordinarily, we do this through annual grants that address unmet needs.

In early March of last year, it became obvious that 2020 was not going to be an ordinary year. Within a week of COVID-19 hitting our community, we established an Emergency Response Appeal to raise funds for urgent needs of children, families, individuals with disabilities, and older adults.

Thanks to our generous donors, in 2020 we provided nearly \$660,000 in emergency and annual grants, making a powerful difference for so many neighbors.



GRANT RECIPIENT: Community Partners for Affordable Housing, CPAH homeowner and his daughter

“Your grant dollars are so so impactful! You are changing lives by helping residents of Highland Park and Highwood secure safe, affordable housing. With stable housing, children do better in school, health outcomes improve, and families can achieve financial stability. Everyone should have a place to call home.”

Amy Kaufman, Director of Development and Community Relations, Community Partners for Affordable Housing

ACADEMIC & CIVIC

College Bound Opportunities
Family Service - Latino
Educational Continuum
Highland Park After Prom
Highland Park Historical Society
Highland Park Public Library
Highwood Public Library
HPHS Estudiante to Student
Mentor Program
HPHS Homework Club
Parks Foundation of Highland Park
Working Together

CREATIVE & CULTURAL ARTS

Bitter Jester Foundation for the Arts
Highland Park Strings
Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
Music Institute of Chicago
The Art Center Highland Park
Uptown Music Theater

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Family Focus Highland Park
Highland Park Community Early
Learning Center
Jewish Council for Youth Services –
Lutz Family Center
Tri-Con Child Care Center

SENIOR SERVICES

Catholic Charities – Lake County
Senior Services
Southeast Lake County Faith in
Action Volunteers

**SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Anixter Center
Best Futures
Center for Enriched Living
Glenkirk
Keshet
The Stuart I Raskas Friendship
Circle of Illinois

SOCIAL SERVICES

Counseling

Cancer Wellness Center
Family Service - Community Counseling
Rainbows for All Children
The Josselyn Center

SOCIAL SERVICES

Food Insecurity

Blessings in a Backpack Highland Park
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Project Shop N' Drop

SOCIAL SERVICES

General

A Safe Place
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Collaborative Community Housing
Initiative
Community Partners for Affordable
Housing
Cradles to Crayons
Curt's Café
Direct Giving Lab
Gratitude Generation
JCFS Chicago Response for Teens
Kids Rank
Mothers Trust Foundation
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
Operation Warm
Youth Services
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

SOCIAL SERVICES

Substance Abuse & Prevention

Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition
Save A Star Drug Awareness Foundation



GRANT RECIPIENT: Family Focus Highland Park

“Your generosity has truly enabled us to further support our most vulnerable families. At the beginning of COVID-19, with so many jobs lost, our primary concern was keeping our families fed. Even though a small number of our participants have returned to work, the needs remain and have expanded. Your grant will help us fulfill some of their needs.”

*Bobbie Hinden, Director,
Family Focus*

“Thank you so much!
Your grant will have a
huge impact on the
health and well-being
of our participants
and staff.”

*Jamie Lake, Director
of Development,
Keshet*



GRANT RECIPIENT: Keshet

In our community...

Needs exist, even in ordinary times. People are food insecure. Seniors need help with meals and transportation. Parents struggle with after-school care for their children so they can work longer hours to make ends meet. Individuals with disabilities have trouble accessing transportation, housing, and services that will improve their quality of life. Residents cannot afford essential counseling services. The list goes on.

COVID-19 created new, urgent needs. Food, toiletries, and hygiene supplies for babies, children, and adults. Household items as well as rent and utility assistance for individuals and families. Technology to support e-learning and remote mental health services. PPE supplies. Affordable legal services for housing, domestic violence, and immigration issues. This list goes on, too.

As optimistic as we are about the vaccine, COVID-19 is still with us, residents are still suffering from its impacts, and it is likely they will for some time.

16.8%
4.5%



16.8% of Highwood and 4.5% of Highland Park residents live in **poverty**

25%
18%



25% of **seniors** in Highland Park live alone and 18% of Highland Park and Highwood residents 60 and over qualify for food stamps

25%
12%



25% of District 112 and 12% of HPHS students are low-income with many facing **food insecurity**

Statistics obtained from U.S. Census data, IL Report Card 2019-2020, and seniorcare.com

2020 COVID emergency grants

Within a week of COVID-19 hitting our community, our Board approved an emergency disbursement of funds to address immediate needs stemming from the coronavirus. By year-end, we distributed 55 emergency grants, totaling \$145,000, to address urgent needs of young families, adults, individuals with disabilities, and isolated seniors stemming from COVID-19. Thanks to the generosity of over 300 donors, we were able to provide critically needed assistance for the most vulnerable members of our community when they needed it the most. Together, we made a difference in their lives. We are most grateful!

COVID EMERGENCY GRANT RECIPIENTS

- A Safe Place
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Cancer Wellness Center
- Catholic Charities – Lake County Senior Services
- Center for Enriched Living
- College Bound Opportunities
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Cradles to Crayons
- Curt's Café
- Family Focus Highland Park
- Family Service of Lake County
- Glenkirk
- Gratitude Generation
- Highland Park Community Early Learning Center
- Highland Park High School
- Highwood Public Library
- Jewish Council for Youth Services – Lutz Family Center
- Keshet
- Mothers Trust Foundation
- North Shore School District 112
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Project Shop N' Drop
- Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers
- The Josselyn Center
- Tri-Con Child Care Center
- Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center



GRANT RECIPIENTS (BY ROW L-R):

- Project Shop N' Drop: student leaders filling bags with food and other essentials
- Midwest Young Artists: students practicing in a COVID-safe environment
- Operation Warm: coat distribution for District 112 students
- Collaborative Community Housing Initiative: CCH participants volunteering at Northern IL Food Bank's mobile food pantry in Highwood
- Northern Illinois Food Bank: volunteers loading cars
- Gratitude Generation: children assembling packages of toiletries purchased with HPCF grant funds

Highland Park Community Foundation Golden Apple

Since 2011, the Highland Park Community Foundation has recognized an outstanding educator in the Highland Park school systems with the HPCF Golden Apple Award.

When the 2019-2020 school year was disrupted by the coronavirus

outbreak, the award committee was unable to complete its work and select a single recipient. Given the outstanding applications and recommendations the three award finalists had received, the committee and HPCF Board decided to honor all of them. They did so at a socially

distanced and masked presentation on the front steps of Highland Park High School. By honoring these exceptional educators, the Foundation demonstrates the strength and importance of excellent teaching in helping young people reach their potential.

JOSH CHODOROFF



NAIRY HAGOPIAN



KATRINA TOLEMY

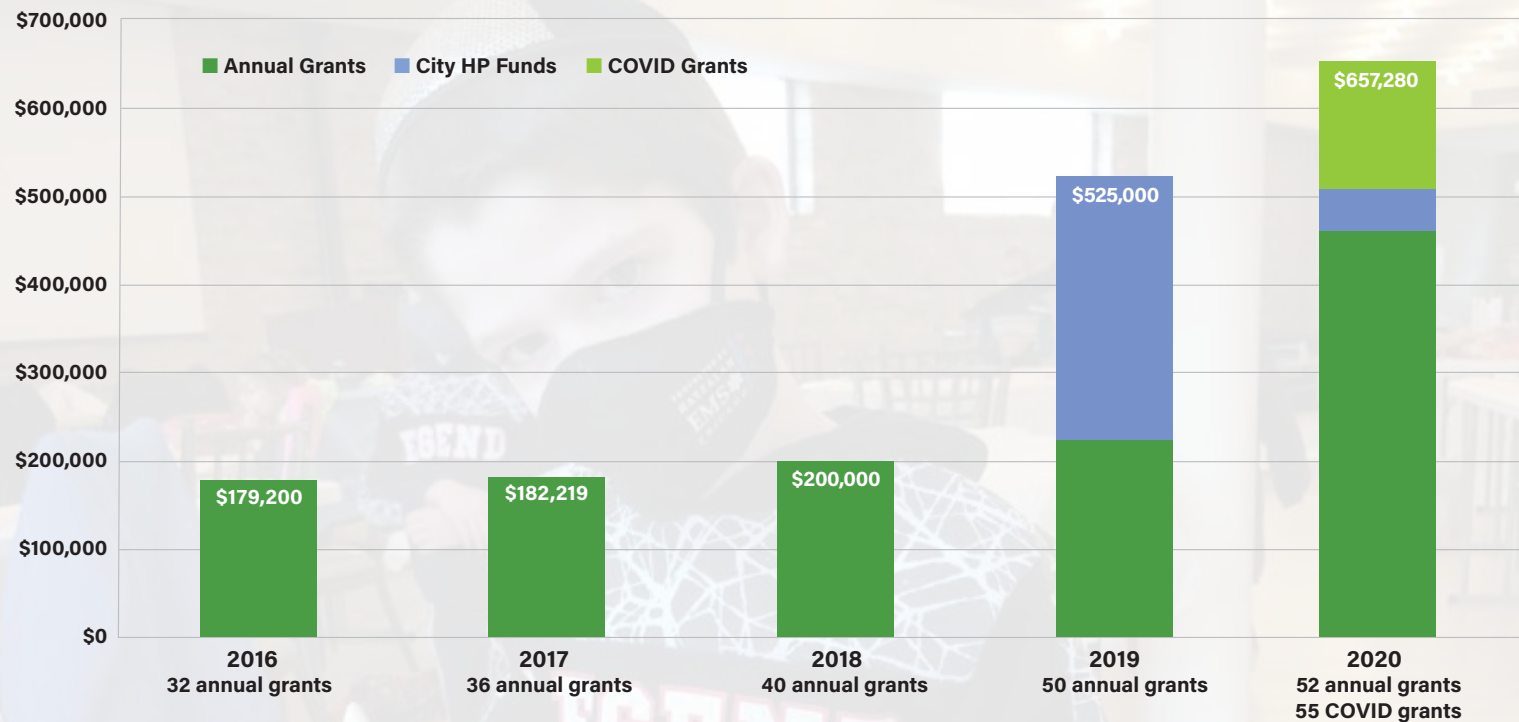


GRANT RECIPIENT: Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers

“Thank you for recognizing the value of emergency funding to small organizations like Faith in Action Volunteers. Your stewardship is an example to other leaders in the community.”

*Robbie Boudreau,
Executive Director,
Faith in Action
Volunteers*

HPCF Grants Awarded 2016-2020



Note: City HP Funds are budgeted by the HP City Council for distribution by the HPCF. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of Ravinia Festival, City HP funds were reduced by \$250,000 in 2020.

GRANT RECIPIENT: The Stuart I Raskas Friendship Circle of Illinois

HPCF Corporate Champions

Our Corporate Champion Program was developed this past year, in the midst of the pandemic, to create longer-term partnerships with businesses that will ensure we have the resources we need to address urgent as well as on-going needs of Highland Park and Highwood residents. We gratefully acknowledge our first four Corporate Champions and look forward to welcoming new corporate partners in 2021 and beyond!

PLATINUM LEVEL

Mesirow 

BRONZE LEVEL


First Bank of Highland Park
 YOUR INTEREST IS OUR PRIORITY


HIGHLAND PARK BANK & TRUST
 A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK


BANNER
 KITCHEN & BATH SHOWROOM



"As a Corporate Champion, we directly align our philanthropic mission with the HPCF. This partnership will allow us to continue to support the goals of the Foundation while making a greater impact on those in need throughout Highland Park and Highwood."

Eric Ephraim, President, First Bank of Highland Park



"Highland Park Bank and Trust is deeply committed to supporting organizations that positively impact the communities we serve. The impact that the HPCF has via its funding, especially this past year with many rounds of COVID-relief funding, is extraordinary. We are so pleased to partner with such an amazing organization."

Jon Levey, President, Highland Park Bank & Trust, a Wintrust Community Bank



"Banner Kitchen & Bath welcomes the opportunity to be an HPCF Corporate Champion. As an industry leader for 75 years, we are proud to partner with a charitable organization that shares our commitment to better the lives of individuals in need. Banner's mission to support the communities we serve continues to be one of the building blocks of our business."

Gene Hara, Co-partner, Banner Kitchen & Bath



"For more than 80 years, Mesirrow has committed to deep civic engagement in the communities where our clients live and work. We are so pleased to be partnering with the Highland Park Community Foundation in a long-term investment to support and enrich the lives of those in and around Highland Park and Highwood."

Richard Price, Chairman and CEO, Mesirrow, and long-time Highland Park resident

Thank you for your generosity and support! We are excited to continue working together to achieve our vision of an inclusive, well-rounded, and vibrant community where residents' lives are enriched through our collective efforts.

2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS

\$10,000+

Binny's Beverage Depot
Mesirow

\$5,000+

Elevate Creative Group
First Bank of Highland Park
Highland Park Bank & Trust
Kovitz Investment Group
Bob Baizer/Romanucci & Blandin

\$2,500+

Autohaus on Edens
Bartlett Wealth Management
Little Tommy's Plumbing Shop
Modestus Bauer Foundation
North Shore Compassionate Care
PwC
Sunset Foods

\$1,000+

@properties
ALX Salon
Elrod Friedman LLP
Fox Swibel Levin & Carroll LLP
Fulton Developers
Guy Scopelliti Landscape Inc.
Law Firm of Becker Gurian

Menoni & Mocogni
Morgante Wilson Architects
North Shore Shell
Porsche Exchange
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Tucker Development
Valerie Wilson Travel Inc,
Highland Park
Wipfli

2020 DONORS TO THE FOUNDATION

\$100,000

Nancy and Andy Mills*

\$75,000 - \$99,999

Linda and Richard Price**

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous Foundation
Mesirow*
Lois and Jon Mills*

\$15,000 - \$24,999

3i plc
Betsy and David Brint
Lake County Community Foundation
The Blane Foundation*

\$10,000 - \$14,999

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Monette and Craig Leva
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Anonymous Foundation
Anonymous*

* includes payment toward a multi-year pledge

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Sally Schwartz
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Amy and David Israel
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** includes pre-payment toward a multi-year pledge

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Pulse Fitness
Linda and Harold Rosenson
Yumi and Doug Ross
Patti and Eugene Ross
Susan and David Ruder
Galya Ben-Arieh and Jim Ruffer
Julie and Ken Sacks
SBB Research Group

“The Foundation helps to make Highland Park and Highwood a dynamic community. It’s an all encompassing ‘give where you live’ investment that touches every aspect of our community and elevates our lives.”

Taryn Kessel, HPCF Board Member and Associate Leadership Council Chairman

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