stronger together

The theme for our 2016 annual report, “Stronger Together” epitomizes not only our Foundation, but our County as well. We have heard many times that Racine County is unique in its many collaborations, and that people here actually work with activity and pride. We are incredibly proud to serve Racine County in a philanthropic manner. We are proud of our county – and so much more. As we go about the work of the Foundation, we could not be done without our donors whose generosity will inspire the work and dedication of countless others. However, this could not be done without our donors whose generosity will help our county today and in the years ahead.

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The Racine Community Foundation is the result of its supporters’ long-term commitment to investing in student potential and supporting the organizations you care about. Donors give gifts to the Foundation to provide support to local, long-term, unrestricted needs.

Endowments
With a strong investment policy, the Foundation works to maximize investments and a diversified portfolio of assets to provide long-term support. Donors can recommend gifts to their favorite charities. A minimum of $10,000 establishes the fund. A donor-advised fund is a separate account that can be named in honor of the donor or other specified individuals. Donors retain final discretion regarding distributions, but donors can recommend gifts to their favorite charities. A minimum of $10,000 establishes the fund.

Donor Advised Funds
In 2016, ELCA Neighborhood campers participated in Bank Your Future, an educational program that fosters positive financial behavior and skill development. As a result of the instruction, many students open savings accounts, start saving monthly, and develop strategies for using and managing their credit. Bank Your Future, which is a money management program that teaches how to use and manage personal income, was developed in conjunction with ELCA and America Eastern Wisconsin's school pantry program.

Funding Community Needs
The Foundation manages a wide variety of endowed and non-endowed funds, and it distributes charitable dollars to area organizations. Funds allow the Foundation unrestricted flexibility to respond to changing and emerging community needs. These funds provide the Foundation with the financial resources to explore creative ways to improve the quality of life for Racine area residents. The Community Development Program provides a variety of services. Services include mediation and conciliation services, information and referral services, counseling, guidance, and support groups. HOPES has gotten much better at locating and engaging people who can become board members or volunteers. HOPES is a certified non-profit entity and is exempt from federal income tax. HOPES receives funding from the Racine Community Foundation, as well as mainstream benefits, employment programs, and housing assistance programs. HOPES has had a significant impact on the area, with 122 people getting housing, 300 people getting employment assistance and support, and 1,744,074 meals served over 10’s of millions of dollars. The Community Development Program provides a variety of services. Services include mediation and conciliation services, information and referral services, counseling, guidance, and support groups.

Donors
We are grateful for the philanthropic contributions that have been sustained throughout history. Donors are the lifeblood of the Racine Community Foundation and are integral to the success of our philanthropic efforts. Donors from all walks of life have made gifts to the Foundation and have enabled it to grow and support local needs.

The assets within the Racine Community Foundation are prudently managed and invested for optimum return in accordance with a written investment policy formally approved by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee manages the assets in accordance with this policy and is overseen by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the assets and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on changes in the asset allocation of the Foundation’s investments. The Board of Directors has ultimate responsibility for the investment decisions of the Foundation.

Our donors have made it possible to support the vital needs of our community. We are able to meet these needs because of the generosity of donors who have chosen to invest in the Racine Community Foundation. Donors are integral to the success of our philanthropic efforts. Donors from all walks of life have made gifts to the Foundation and have enabled it to grow and support local needs.

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