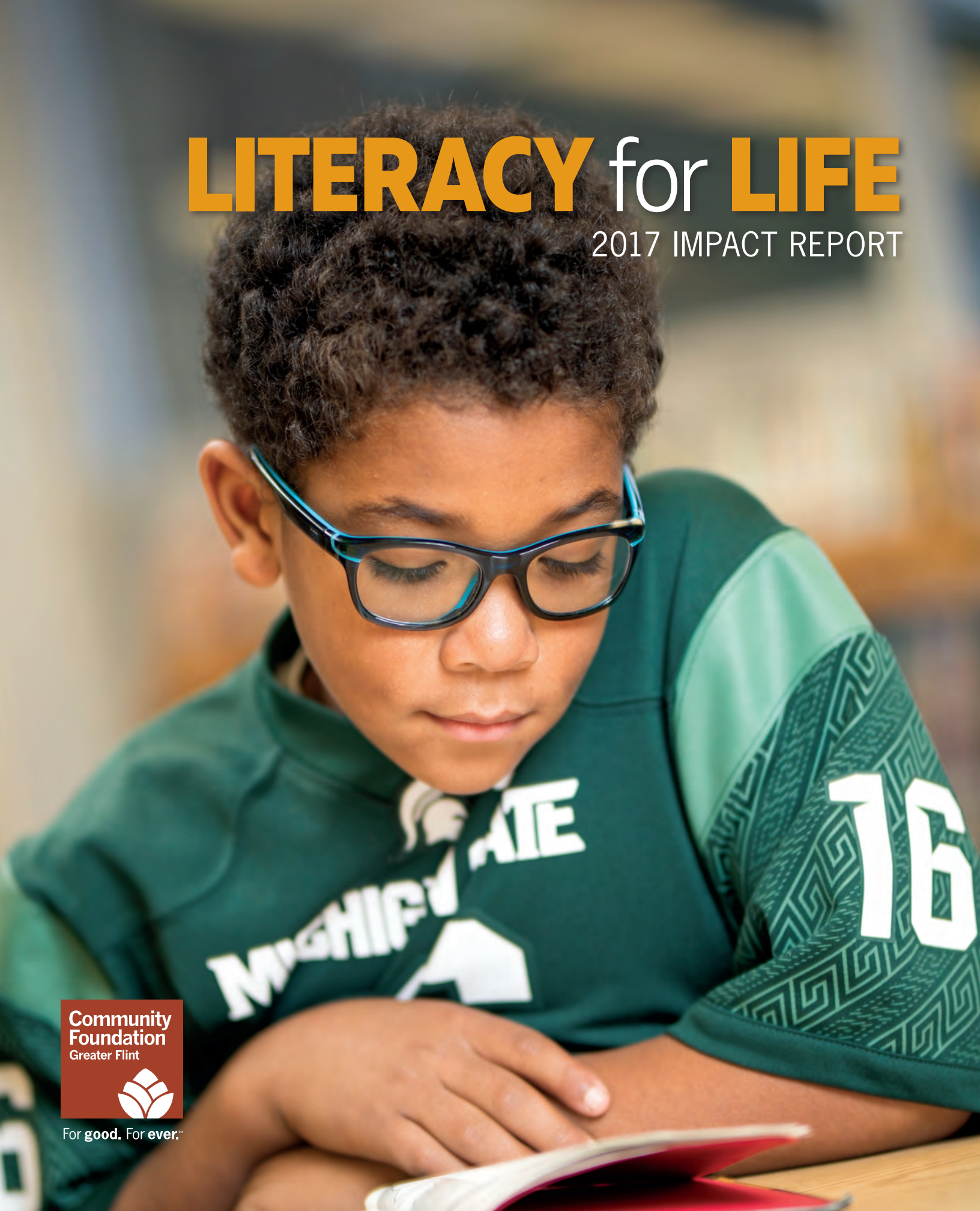


LITERACY for LIFE

2017 IMPACT REPORT



Community
Foundation
Greater Flint



For good. For ever.™

Dear Friends:

In 2013, we interviewed key stakeholders of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF) to better understand the Foundation's value to the community. The reviews were favorable. However, missing in these responses was the identification of a signature area of impact. This led the CFGF board of trustees to "put a stake in the ground" on one community issue.

As part of the subsequent strategic planning process, we formed a task force to identify our stake in the ground issue. In December 2013, that task force recommended to the board to put a stake in the ground on literacy. Why literacy? We had come to understand the strong connection to literacy rates and economic self-sufficiency and overall quality of life. The task force saw literacy as a foundational issue that could have far-reaching impact and dramatically improve people's lives throughout Genesee County.

In June 2014, Literacy Powerline, a national organization that helps communities improve literacy rates, met with our board and encouraged them to embrace this goal by focusing our time, talent and treasure on building a literacy network. Research shows that communities that make significant progress in improving literacy rates do so because they have a literacy coalition that engages a multitude of stakeholders in the work.

Fast forward three years. We have continued forward progress through the Water Crisis. And we have created this report to offer an interim, qualitative assessment designed to summarize what has transpired with our focus on literacy. We know that changing literacy rates takes decades to accomplish, but it is important that we capture what has happened during CFGF's initial investment period.

We have many miles to go before we will see the kind of big change we intend to bring about. This report highlights some early successes as evidence that even in the early stages of this work, our investments in literacy are changing lives. We want you to hear the stories of Dianndra and Angela as examples of the people whose lives these investments have already touched, people whose life trajectories have been significantly altered as a result of our investments in literacy.

Eventually we will be able to take these changes to scale. But for now, we encourage readers to celebrate our short-term victories as we tackle one of the most complex, entrenched challenges of our community.

And know, we've only just begun.



KATHI HORTON
Past President

ISAIAH OLIVER
President & CEO

Kathi Horton
Kathi Horton, Past President

Isaiah M. Oliver
Isaiah Oliver, President & CEO

LOCAL LANDSCAPE

The Flint community has been managing a variety of challenges for many years, including a county-wide decline in population, aging infrastructure, lack of access to healthy food, and ongoing changes to state-level funding streams. All of these issues and others have affected community literacy in Flint.

Flint once had 200,000 residents; today that number is less than half as large. Over time, layoffs have led to fewer residents and a massive reduction in the tax-base. This tax loss links directly to education and library funding in Genesee County. In 2009, for example, the Flint Public Library operated with an annual budget of \$4.7 million, with one main location and three branches. Today, that budget has been cut by 40 percent, forcing the closure of the three branches, a reduction in library staff, and reduced hours at one location to serve nearly 100,000 people. Despite the library's efforts, which are monumental for its size and budget, Genesee County residents have reduced access to books and educational programming. In addition, according to recent U.S. Census data:

40.1%

40.1 percent of Flint's population was **living in poverty** in 2013 — similar to Detroit's rate of 39.3 percent and far higher than Michigan's 16.2 percent poverty rate — making Flint the second most poverty-stricken city in the nation for its size.

130,095

In 2015, 130,095 people in Genesee County were **using food stamp assistance** compared with 87,847 in 2005.

\$24,834

The **median income** for Flint residents between 2009 and 2013 was \$24,834 a year. The state's median income was \$48,411.

5,000

Since 2005, an estimated 5,000 **abandoned homes** have been demolished in the city.

300

Flint Community Schools lost its seat as the largest school district in the county to Grand Blanc. In 2014, Flint had a little more than 300 **high school graduates** while Grand Blanc had more than 600.

In 2012, Dr. Richard Shaink, President of Mott Community College, had become increasingly concerned that many high school graduates were beginning postsecondary education not fully literate. As part of the Achieving the Dream initiative, a national program designed to help community college students pursue their dreams, Dr. Shaink and his team disaggregated local data that determined many students were placing into developmental classes. He convened community leaders to discuss literacy work in Genesee County, including the libraries, the school system, a local literacy coalition and the foundation community. The City of Flint was the first major funder of literacy efforts through Community Development Block Grant dollars. A Literacy Summit was convened, which raised the profile of Literacy efforts in Flint, and began conversations in earnest with the United Way of Genesee County, the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Mott Community College has experienced, first hand, the consequences of low literacy. Remedial basic skills courses are required for many entering students. Remedial courses prove to be expensive, both for the college and for the students who can exhaust their financial aid resources before they begin regular coursework. The result is low graduation rates for those students entering without strong literacy skills.

“When you invest in the infrastructure it allows you to bring people together to be able to influence not only where existing resources are being directed, but also who can think differently about new resources. It takes longer to build a network as a sustainable entity, but if it does happen and it happens properly, those that are at the provider level should be able to get the resources that they need and be more effective at what they are doing.”



**ROBERT
MATTHEWS**

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT,
WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, MOTT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**WE KNEW
THAT TO HAVE
STRONG FAMILIES
AND VIBRANT
COMMUNITIES
IN THE FUTURE,
WE NEEDED
TO INVEST IN
LITERACY TODAY.**

By 2013, when CFGF put its “stake in the ground” on literacy, it was to find innovative ways to respond to this new landscape, urgent needs and smaller budgets. We knew that to have strong families and vibrant communities in the future, we needed to invest in literacy today. We also needed to better prepare our students so that they were ready for college coursework and professional training, and didn’t expend years of financial aid on remedial classes that did not count toward a degree or certificate. We were ready to move — with a collective impact model — and we had gotten the ball rolling in the right direction. Soon, we were able to support the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network, which was created to engage a variety of community stakeholder organizations, strengthen ongoing collaboration, and improve literacy resources and services in the region. Currently, it coordinates the work of more than 100 direct service providers that serve residents throughout Genesee County.

The Flint Water Crisis demanded that we respond to the profound outpouring of local and national support for Flint's children exposed to lead. It also shined a bright spotlight on Genesee County's need for high-quality early childhood learning and literacy programs, echoing what we learned from the community in 2013. Fortunately, our community-building efforts before the Water Crisis gave us a strong foundation, as we were better organized, experienced and already working together. As a result of all of these factors, our literacy work has more momentum now than ever before. CFGF continues to play the role of facilitator and connector for our literacy providers and partners, and we remain committed to "catalytic philanthropy." We are still fighting fiercely for the future of Flint.



"Literacy efforts go right in line with the vision we have for our library in this community. When the Literacy Network began, we were also doing strategic planning due to the Library's budget cuts. The Literacy Network helped us be strategic in where to put our efforts." The Network, in bringing partners together to collaborate, allows groups to see where there are gaps and services and also duplication of efforts. These collaborative relationships allowed the Library to feel confident in focusing on its specialties, early literacy and digital literacy.

The Library has faced tremendous budget cuts over the last nine years, which led to the closing of all three branch libraries and reduced hours at the main branch. "Once we closed our branches and noticed library participation was shrinking, we knew we had to do something. We decided that if the public can't come to us, then we're going to go to them." The Library now implements "Every Child Ready to Read" events at Flint Housing Sites, YouthQuest afterschool enrichment, Y Safe Places, community and neighborhood events, and the Police Athletic Leagues.

LESLIE ACEVEDO

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY
OPERATIONS,
FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE FLINT WATER CRISIS

For the Community Foundation team and our partners, the Water Crisis demanded a sophisticated, nimble, high-impact response. Our days turned from implementing proactive strategies to crisis management — fielding phone calls, developing new tools and pooling resources. We had just rolled up our sleeves to address the literacy crisis when the Water Crisis hit — a lot for any one community to manage.

The effects of lead poisoning can be disastrous — especially to children. Realizing this fact, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, whose research brought light to the crisis, established the Flint Child Health and Development Fund at the Community Foundation. The purpose of the Fund, also known as the Flint Kids Fund, is to serve the long-term health and development needs of Flint children exposed to lead.

Dr. Mona's national television appearances helped to activate the generosity of people from every state and 15 countries around the globe. Students, families, churches, foundations, businesses, celebrities, and sports figures all wrapped their generous spirit around Flint children and have contributed over \$19 million to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund.

In turn, nearly \$4 million has been granted back to the community, including \$516,700 in support for early childhood literacy programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and \$360,000 for Cummings Great Expectation Early Childhood Center.

THE SILVER LINING OF THE WATER CRISIS IS THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS MORE ALIGNED, DRIVEN AND RESILIENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

Today we are just now reemerging on the other side, able to deepen our focus on literacy. And the silver lining of the Water Crisis is that our community is more aligned, driven and resilient than ever before. The average person sees the benefit of offering quality literacy programming, and we know that investments in literacy will play a critical role in ensuring that Flint children have the resources and support they need to live healthy and happy lives.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FLINT KIDS FUND IS TO SERVE THE LONG-TERM HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF FLINT CHILDREN EXPOSED TO LEAD.

TIMELINE

CFGF Literacy Investments in Genesee County

SUMMER 2013 ▶ CFGF board formalizes strategy to put a “stake in the ground” on one community issue.

FALL 2013 ▶ CFGF board votes to make literacy its stake in the ground issue to **improve literacy rates in Genesee County**, particularly in Flint’s areas of greatest need. The approach will be multi-generational and align with other CFGF grantmaking programs, including its five Community Funds.

2013

SPRING 2014 ▶ CFGF enlists national literacy expert **Literacy Powerline** to help support the work of the **Flint and Genesee County Literacy & Basic Skills Network** led by Mott Community College. Together the group forms a Steering Committee of local leaders to work directly with Literacy Powerline, which includes CFGF’s President and Vice President of Community Impact.

2014 ▶ CFGF makes its **first literacy grants totaling \$58,000** to three local organizations helping to improve literacy rates with residents of all ages.

SUMMER 2014 ▶ In collaboration with Literacy Powerline and the Steering Committee, CFGF decides to adopt a “**catalytic philanthropy**” approach and to build a broad-based literacy network as its primary investment strategy.

▶ **CFGF makes grant of \$77,000 to Mott Community College (grant 1 of 4)** to support additional work with Literacy Powerline and to hire a full-time director of the growing literacy network.

FALL 2014 ▶ **Ja’Nel Jamerson is hired** to serve as director of the Flint and Genesee County Literacy & Basic Skills Network.

▶ Literacy Powerline launches a **six-month community planning process** that engages hundreds of individuals and organizations across Genesee County.

SPRING 2015 ▶ Planning concludes. The Network announces focus on family literacy and youth tutoring/mentoring; **renames the coalition as Flint & Genesee Literacy Network**; embraces “action teams” as initial strategic framework.

▶ CFGF forms internal **Literacy Task Force** with representation from all CFGF advisory committees to align across the foundation and maximize impact.

SUMMER 2015 ▶ **CFGF makes a grant of \$105,000 (grant 2 of 4)** to fund operations of the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network, and supports expansion of the Michigan Reading Corp in Flint Community Schools.

FALL 2015 ▶ Network launches **public awareness campaign** focused on literacy. CFGF establishes **Literacy for Life Fund**, a non-endowed fund to support the non-profit partners of the Network. The CFGF 2015 year-end appeal letter focuses on this Fund.

▶ Flint & Genesee Literacy Network joins the *Campaign for Grade-Level Reading*, a collaborative effort by more than 300 communities across the U.S. to ensure that more children in low-income families are reading at grade level by the end of third grade and armed for long-term success.

2015

FALL 2015
continued

- ▶ Network partner Christ Enrichment Center pilots a **Family Literacy Program** following guidelines identified by the National Center for Families Learning. *Testimonials from two graduates of this program are included in this report.*
- ▶ Network partner Flint Institute of Arts receives a mini-grant to develop take-home kits for the Success through Art initiative. They begin to host Parent and Child Together Time activities through the Family Literacy pilot program.
- ▶ Network partner Flint Public Library launches the *Read While You Wait* initiative in one barbershop in Flint. Literacy Network Early Childhood Action Team members recommend expanding to 10 sites throughout Genesee County.

SPRING 2016

- ▶ Flint Institute of Arts distributes 500+ take-home kits through local Early Learning Centers.

SUMMER 2016

2016

- ▶ **CFGF makes third grant of \$137,000 (grant 3 of 4)** to the Network, allowing the group to hire additional staff members, develop new programs, and measure Network impact in new ways.
- ▶ The Literacy Network and the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce co-host the first Summer Learning Professionals Conference to provide high-quality professional development opportunities for youth-serving providers. The event draws nearly 200 leaders from more than 30 organizations.
- ▶ In collaboration with partners, the Literacy Network and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint & Genesee County host **National Summer Learning Day: Passport to Learning** focused on stemming summer learning loss.

FALL 2016

- ▶ Literacy Network partners launch the *Flint Kids Read* initiative to provide access to age-appropriate reading material to Flint children. The Flint Public Library is selected as a “local champion” for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

SPRING 2017

- ▶ Dolly Parton Imagination Library enrollment reaches 2,000+ Flint children and families. The Literacy Network presents at the bi-annual *Homecomin’ Conference* for the Dollywood Foundation.
- ▶ Flint Public Library’s *Read While You Wait* initiative reaches eight sites.
- ▶ **The Literacy Network now includes a full-time director of programs, a coordinator of community impact and an operations manager.** The Network steering committee continues to grow.
- ▶ The Network enlists **PolicyLink**, a national collective impact expert, to help support the growth of the Network and grow capacity to maximize impact.
- ▶ Flint & Genesee Literacy Network receives the “Pacesetter Honor” from the national *Campaign for Grade-Level Reading*.
- ▶ **The Network establishes its cradle-to-career Continuum of Solutions**, reflecting the original commitment of all partners to 1) family literacy and 2) two-generation strategies, including tutoring, mentoring, etc.

SUMMER 2017

- ▶ **CFGF makes fourth grant of \$136,500 (grant 4 of 4)** to sustain the Literacy Network’s staff capacity. In addition, partners and providers within the Network boost support throughout the cradle-to-career continuum, and target populations to ensure the most vulnerable learners are connected to the literacy services they need.

2017

INVESTMENTS IN LITERACY

Community Foundation of Greater Flint and Foundation for Flint as of June 30, 2017

2014

Grantee	Amount (\$)
Christ Enrichment Center	45,000
City of Grand Blanc	4,000
C.S. Mott Community College	77,420
Education Foundation for the Flint Community Schools	15,000
Flint Area Congregations Together	18,000
Flint Public Library	10,250
Young Men's Christian Association of Flint	8,000
CFGF Grant Total	\$ 177,670

2015

Grantee	Amount (\$)
Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties	22,000
University of Michigan-Flint	6,000
Flint Public Library	10,500
United Way of Genesee County	25,000
C.S. Mott Community College	99,953
United Way of Genesee County	5,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Flint	1,000
Christ Enrichment Center	26,470
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint	9,750
CFGF Grant Total	\$ 205,673

Also in 2016, following the declarations of emergency from each Flint Mayor Weaver, Michigan Governor Snyder and President Obama, CFGF established the Foundation for Flint and the Flint Child Health and Development Fund (the Fund) to help respond to the water crisis, and to serve as primary recipient for the outpouring of national support and connector of resources for the greater community. The Foundation for Flint is a supporting organization of CFGF and administers the Fund, which was founded under the leadership of local civic leaders and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha — the pediatrician and humanitarian who brought the Water Crisis to national attention. The Fund raises money to mitigate the impact of the water crisis on children ages 0-8 and is the ultimate destination for gifts made at www.flintkids.org.

In 2016, the Carnegie Corporation of New York made a \$1 million investment in early childhood education and literacy efforts in Flint. They made their grant to the Foundation for Flint as part of the philanthropic response to the Water Crisis inspired by the C.S. Mott Foundation's Recover and Rise initiative. We are grateful for their support and for the leadership of the C.S. Mott Foundation.

2016

Grantee	Amount (\$)
University of Michigan-Flint	6,000
Flint Public Library	10,000
Genesee District Library	2,000
Clio Area Schools	5,500
Christ Enrichment Center, Inc.	10,000
C.S. Mott Community College	136,547
CFGF Grant Total	\$ 170,047
Flint Public Library	25,000
Child Connect for Family Success	26,000
Flint Public Library	491,700
University of Michigan-Flint	360,000
Foundation for Flint Grant Total	\$ 902,700

2017

Grantee	Amount (\$)
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint	6,500
University of Michigan-Flint	6,000
Christ Enrichment Center	600
C.S. Mott Community College	136,500
CFGF Grant Total	\$ 149,600
C.S. Mott Community College	240,000
Flint Community Schools	100,000
University of Michigan-Flint	300,000
Genesee Intermediate School District	279,000
Foundation for Flint Grant Total	\$ 919,000

TOTAL INVESTMENT \$2,524,690



**DIANNDR
DAVIS
AND FAMILY**

“CHRIST ENRICHMENT CENTER STAFF BELIEVED IN ME WHEN I DIDN’T BELIEVE IN MYSELF. MS. DANIELLE BELIEVED IN ME. ‘I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, BUT WE CAN FIGURE THEM OUT TOGETHER.’” WITH CEC’S SUPPORT, DIANNDR HAS CHANGED HER LIFE IN PROFOUND AND MEANINGFUL WAYS.

Dianndra Davis is a single mother of two children. When she first came to Christ Enrichment Center (CEC), Dianndra was homeless, without a job, had an unresolved legal issue, and was not spending quality time with her children. Through the support of CEC, Dianndra and her children are now living on their own, she is on her way to finishing her GED, her legal issues are resolved, she has a fulfilling and well-paid job, and she is invested in her children’s lives. At age 25, she is experiencing rewarding parenting, job satisfaction, financial security and life stability.

In addition to her GED courses, Dianndra learned practical skills at CEC, like personal finance and healthy cooking classes. She also learned the value of spending time with her children, explaining that “we took our children to the museum, the library, to Disney on Ice, to the Saginaw Zoo—we went everywhere” with CEC. Before the Family Literacy program, “I wasn’t taking my kids to the library. I wasn’t reading to them, I wasn’t helping with homework. Now I spend more quality time with my kids. I make sure I’m doing things with them throughout the week, like I’ll take them for a bike ride. I never spent a lot of time with them before and now I do.”

As with other students, CEC helped Dianndra gain employment. They also arranged for a Saturday morning tutor, which has kept her working and on track to graduate.

Reflecting on the value of this program, Dianndra explained, “There are a lot of single mothers out there with no help. CEC is giving them opportunities to get their GED, to get jobs, to get closer to their families, to be better moms. Family Literacy is helping. It’s getting little girls like me big jobs.”

SUPPORTING THE FLINT & GENESEE LITERACY NETWORK

As mentioned earlier, the Community Foundation made its first grant to Mott Community College in the summer of 2014 to help build a broad-based literacy network. Continued funding of the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network remains our primary investment strategy for improving literacy rates in Genesee County.

In addition to financial support, the Community Foundation has made an “all-in” commitment that has taken the form of strong leadership participation on the Network’s steering committee, extensive staff involvement in the community planning process during the launch of the Network, and continued participation at the implementation level through the Network’s action teams.

In just three short years, the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network has become nationally recognized, receiving the Grade-Level Reading Campaign 2016 Pacesetter Honor for demonstrating exemplary work in the Campaign’s framework for success, scale and sustainability. Pacesetters are part of a nationwide network of more than 300 GLR Campaign communities dedicated to narrowing the achievement gap of children from low-income families.

We are pleased to highlight the work of the Network, its partner organizations which signify the strength of the Network, the generosity of other funders that have invested in the Network’s formation and success, and finally testimonials from participants in the Network’s programs. These individuals are transforming themselves and our community.

Professor Todd Womack is dedicated to literacy. “Community Reads is not only about improving literacy, but also about approaching deep issues that impact the Flint community. “We want to bring people together and build relationships. And within those relationships we want to begin to wrestle with issues that face our community—you can’t do that on an island.”

The Literacy Network has also been instrumental in helping to connect “Community Reads” to other Literacy organizations. “It’s a really synergistic approach to see how literacy organizations can come together and support one another. It’s an organic approach, but it’s also intentional about working with other partners who are also tackling literacy.”

TODD WOMACK

ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND
LECTURER, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK, UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN-FLINT



LITERACY NETWORK – FOCUS

Embarking on its fourth year of operations, the Literacy Network is focused on well-coordinated two-generation interventions, ensuring there are ‘literacy-rich’ environments during pivotal early years of childhood, and for parents who struggle with their own literacy. Additionally, the Network is focused on grade-level reading throughout K-12 — all with an eye on college without remediation. We are making early progress and experiencing much momentum, but to truly move the needle and improve literacy rates for the region, we must look years into the future.

FLINT & GENESEE
Literacy Network



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN THE LITERACY NETWORK

FY 2014 *June 2014 – June 2015*

Community Development Block Grant (City of Flint)	\$ 140,000
Community Foundation of Greater Flint	\$ 177,373
C.S. Mott Foundation	\$ 30,500
United Way of Genesee County	\$ 15,000
Total	\$ 362,873

FY 2015 *July 2015 – June 2016*

Community Development Block Grant (City of Flint)	\$ 135,000
Community Foundation of Greater Flint	\$ 136,547
Ruth Mott Foundation	\$ 50,000
C.S. Mott Foundation	\$ 43,500
United Way of Genesee County	\$ 10,000
National Basketball Players Association	\$ 10,000
Diplomat Pharmacy	\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 388,047

FY 2016 *July 2016 – June 2017*

Foundation for Flint	\$ 240,000
Community Foundation of Greater Flint	\$ 136,500
Community Development Block Grant (City of Flint)	\$ 100,000
Ruth Mott Foundation	\$ 72,500
C.S. Mott Foundation	\$ 47,000
The Hagerman Foundation	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 621,000

TOTAL INVESTMENT \$1,371,920

Community Results and Solutions

School Readiness

School Success



Children Enter School Ready to Learn

- Children engage in **Book Rich Environments**
- Children engage in quality **Early Learning Programs**
- Parents/Caregivers receive quality **Parent Education**

Children Succeed in School

- Parents/Caregivers receive quality **Parent Education**
- Children receive quality **Out-of-School Time Learning**
- Children receive quality **Tutoring and/or Mentoring**

The Network is focused on the four stages of growth below: kindergarten readiness, school success, post-secondary readiness, and gainful employment. The chart explains the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network's approach, and includes its collaborative strategies and performance measures.

Post Secondary Success

Gainful Employment



People are Prepared for and are Succeeding in Post-Secondary Education

- *Parents/Caregivers receive quality **Remediation and Mentoring Services***

People are Gainfully Employed

- *Parents/Caregivers receive quality **Training and Workforce Education***



**ANGELA
BAKER
AND FAMILY**

Angela Baker is a recent graduate of Christ Enrichment Center's Family Literacy program. Within nine months, she completed her GED, a task she had tried to tackle several times previously. She brought her reading level from a 5th to a 12th-grade level, and entered a Medical Assistant Program. Today Ms. Baker is supporting her children with a Medical Assistant career in Urgent Care and no longer receiving public assistance. She has her sights set on Nursing School, a dream since childhood that now feels attainable, she explained, through tears.

"I always told myself when I was growing up I would go into the medical field. But I wasn't able to because I was only 16 when I had my first son and my mom died when I was 15. It was hard and it pushed me out of school because I didn't have help. As I grew up I kept trying the GED programs but nothing worked."

Angela cherished her educational experiences, "With all the experiences I had with going to school, I loved it so much. It was so amazing. *It was so amazing.* It is something I always wanted to do."

The CEC Family Literacy Program was distinctive from other programs Angela had tried because of its flexibility. Angela could bring her children with her if necessary, or take work home if a conflict arose.

Angela's children have benefited beyond the financial improvement in the household. The children observed their mother complete something difficult and new—and Angela's 10-year-old daughter has a new goal for herself: Nursing School. Angela explained, "She now wants to go to Nursing School. She loves it." And her confidence has risen, "I'm proud of myself. I did it. And I just thank Ms. Connelly for everything. I wouldn't be where I am at without her."

A CRITICAL COMPONENT AT THE CEC WAS THE MENTORSHIP, SUPPORT, AND EVEN TOUGH-LOVE SHE RECEIVED FROM HER GED TEACHER MS. CONNELLY. "MS. CONNELLY, SHE PUSHED ME. SHE PUSHED ME WHERE I NEEDED IT. I GIVE ALL CREDIT TO MS. CONNELLY. I STILL TALK TO MS. CONNELLY TO THIS DAY BECAUSE SHE HELPED ME. 'KEEP GOING, YOU GOT IT! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.' AND I TELL MY CHILDREN EVERY DAY THAT I DID IT ALL FOR THEM."

PARTNERS — FLINT & GENESEE LITERACY NETWORK

Listed below are community organizations that, in 2016 and 2017 alone, participated in Literacy Network convenings and/or contributed to the development and implementation of Network strategies.

LOCAL

ABC-12
Asbury United Methodist Church
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint & Genesee County
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint
Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Advisory Council
Catholic Charities
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Child Care Network
Child Connect for Family Success
Christ Enrichment Center
City of Flint-Community & Economic Development
City of Flint-Office of Mayor Dr. Karen Weaver
Community Foundation of Greater Flint
Community-Based Organization Partners
Congressman Dan Kildee, MI-05
Crim Fitness Foundation
Crossover Downtown Outreach
Diplomat Pharmacy
ELGA Credit Union
Evergreen Community Development

Evidence-Based Learning Instruction
Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce
Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce: Education & Learning Division
Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce: YouthQuest
Flint & Genesee Opportunity Youth Coalition
Flint Area Youth Groups
Flint Children's Museum
Flint Community Schools: Administration
Flint Community Schools: Brownell-Holmes Elem.
Flint Institute of Arts
Flint Public Library
Flint/Genesee Job Corps
Genesee County Catholic Schools
Genesee County Health Department
Genesee County Literacy Coalition
Genesee County Parks
Genesee District Library
Genesee Intermediate School District: Administration
Genesee Intermediate School District: Early Learning
Genesee Intermediate School District: Nutrition
Genesee Valley Rotary

Genesee-Shiawassee Michigan Works
Greater Flint Health Coalition
Hagerman Foundation
Hamilton Community Health Network
Huntington Bank
Hurley Children's Hospital
International Academy of Flint
Kettering University
Landaal Packaging
Linda A. Pohly P.C.
MADE Institute
McLaren Foundation
Metro Community Development
Michigan Department of Human Services
Michigan Reading Corps
Michigan State University
MLive Group (Flint Journal)
Mott Children's Health Center
Mott Community College
MY-Flint My Brother's Keeper
National Heritage Academies-Burton Glenn
New Jerusalem Baptist Church
Olmsted Associates, Inc.
Priority Children
RAISE IT UP! Youth Arts & Awareness
Rotary Club of Flint

Rowe Professional Services Company
Ruth Mott Foundation
Sloan*Longway
The Disability Network
United Way of Genesee County
University of Michigan-Flint Office of Educational Opportunity Initiatives
University of Michigan-Flint Office of University Outreach
University of Michigan-Flint School of Education & Human Services
University of Michigan-Flint Administration
WOW Outreach

NATIONAL

Aspen Institute - Ascend Network
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Clear Impact (Formerly Results Leadership Group)
Dollywood Foundation
Educational Alliance of New York
National Center for Families Learning (NCFL)
PolicyLink - Promise Neighborhood Institute
National Head Start Association

LITERACY NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

Kathi Horton, Steering Committee Chair, Flint & Genesee Literacy Network

Jennifer Acree, Associate Program Officer, C.S. Mott Foundation

Robert Matthews, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development, Mott Community College

Isaiah Oliver, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Kay Schwartz, Director, Flint Public Library

Todd Slisher, Executive Director, Sloan*Longway Interim COO, Flint Cultural Center Corporation

Marjory Raymer, Publisher & Managing Editor, *Flintside Magazine*

Jamie-Lee Venable, Director of Community Impact, United Way of Genesee County

LOOKING AHEAD

Our goal is to ensure all children have what they need to succeed in life. We want them prepared for kindergarten, to excel in school throughout grades K-12, to have options and support for any post-secondary path they choose, and to have secure jobs that pay a living wage as adults.

This is our dream, and our vision for Flint and Genesee County. As a community, the only way to bring this vision to life — for all residents — is to align as a collective force and make literacy a central priority.

We are hopeful. The momentum guiding the Literacy Network is a source of optimism for all those who wish to see the residents of Genesee County prosper. The stories reflected herein are only a small sample, and show that the collective impact approach is helping change lives. As Robert Matthews noted, “We had a commitment early on to bring community-wide awareness to literacy. I think that has happened, and I think we are keeping it in the forefront of people’s minds.” As the Network moves into the full implementation phase, it does so with community support, practitioner engagement and promising results from pilot programs.

We are also guided by the core values that have always been present in our community but have emerged in earnest in recent years, across sectors and organizations. There is an optimism, momentum and energy behind this collective effort, and a new focus on quality programming and measurable results. There are fewer siloes and barriers, and in their place we are building teams and collaborative infrastructure. We are also operating with a stronger sense of urgency, and a renewed drive to implement successful programs at scale, ultimately to serve the youth in Genesee County who deserve every possible opportunity to live their best possible lives.

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Support the **Literacy for Life** Fund at www.cfgf.org.



For **good.** For **ever.**™

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