AAACF is proud to host the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund (YACF) as its only affiliate. *The Ypsilanti Area Community Fund* was established in 2001 by leaders of Ypsilanti who wanted a permanent source of community capital, an endowment devoted to the Ypsilanti area that could be used to enhance the community in perpetuity. After celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2016, leaders of YACF helped define a vision for the “foundation within a foundation” for the next several years.

To help realize its powerful vision, YACF adjusted its grantmaking in 2018 to support collaborative projects through two large multi-year grants. These two efforts are led by Community Action Network and the Family Learning Institute. The YACF Advisory Committee is evaluating the impact of these grants and ways to further expand its impact across the Ypsilanti area.

**YACF Impact Statement**

Every family in the Ypsilanti area will thrive by gaining access to programs and services through collaborative partnerships across sectors that measurably increase health outcomes and educational attainment leading to economic well-being.

As the only permanent endowment for the Ypsilanti area, YACF has a unique position to draw connections across past and current community conversations. To determine how best to realize its vision and to conduct effective and strategic grantmaking, YACF Advisory Committee members recently undertook a “community voice project” to discover what area residents had already shared with numerous organizations across many community input formats, gatherings and sessions. An Eastern Michigan University graduate student assessed the themes across these dialogues, and YACF is determining how it can respond to these findings and continue the connections.

To thank community leaders for participating in these interviews and to share these outcomes with supporters, YACF leaders will hold a special gathering later this year. Stay tuned! In the meantime, learn more about these activities and the exciting direction of YACF at the Summer Happy Hour at Cultivate on August 12, from 4:30-6:30!

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**YACF Summer Happy Hour**

**Monday, August 12, 2019**

4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Cultivate Coffee & Tap House**

307 N. River Street

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- Catch up with the YACF Advisory Committee
- Celebrate summer with other YACF supporters
- Make plans to spend an August evening in Depot Town—get a drink & appetizers with YACF, then walk to a great restaurant for your dinner!
Funds of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund

Community Impact Funds
- Stephen W. & Barbara J. Burke Fund
- Gene & Margaret Butman Memorial Fund
- Fran & Larry Doe Fund
- Lynette M. Findley Fund
- George & Judith Goodman Fund
- Carolyn & John Kirkendall Fund
- Donald M. & Nancie N. Loppnow Fund
- McCracken-Warren Fund
- Ed & Mary Jane McEachern Fund
- Mary Esther Ross Miller Fund

Arthur G. Erickson and Louis P. Porretta Educator Impact Fund
- Elaine & Dan Quirk Fund
- Vicki L. Reaume & Family Fund
- Richard & Barbara Robb Fund
- Karen Quintan Valvo Fund
- Roy & Cynthia Wilbanks Fund

Ypsilanti Area Community Fund

To honor Mrs. Gillenwater’s lasting legacy, any new donors can make tax-deductible contributions to a complementary fund in her name through YACF. The Gillenwater Legacy Fund has been seeded by a generous anonymous donor with a $10,000 gift and an additional dollar-for-dollar match (up to $10,000) for new gifts into the fund.

Tyler Weston, the Ypsi Real Estate Guy, and his clients made another generous investment in the YACF Gillenwater Legacy Fund. Mrs. Gillenwater understood the connections between education and a strong community—and so does Tyler Weston.

YACF Gillenwater Legacy Fund

The Mary Williams Gillenwater Scholarship for Ypsilanti Community Schools students is administered through the Community Foundation’s Community Scholarship Program. Bank of Ann Arbor is Trustee of the Gillenwater Trust, managing the assets and partnering with the Community Foundation to administer the funds. That way, selected YCS students can receive multi-year scholarships and a dedicated success coach!

Mary Williams Gillenwater had a strong work ethic and helped to provide for her family. Through her hard work as a maid and diligently saving and making wise investments, Mrs. Gillenwater was able through her estate to leave a six-figure gift for others to achieve what she did not have the opportunity to pursue—a college education. Mrs. Gillenwater had powerful role models who influenced her, and she understood the connections between education, encouragement of others, and building a strong community. Under the thoughtful management of Bank of Ann Arbor, the assets of the Gillenwater Trust will be available for the scholarships in perpetuity.

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