AAACF Celebrates Community Impact, Statewide Recognition, & Philanthropic Leadership at CMF 54th Annual Conference



Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation joined Michigan philanthropy leaders in Grand Rapids to share ideas, celebrate donor generosity, recognize George and Judith Goodman with the 2026 Dorothy A. Johnson Community Philanthropy Award, and highlight AAACF's continued impact as Michigan's No. 2 community foundation by assets.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Nov. 13, 2026 - *PRLog* -- The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) joined community foundation leaders and philanthropy professionals from across Michigan at the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) 54th Annual Conference, held October 12–14, 2026, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Under the theme "United for Good," the conference brought together philanthropy leaders to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and explore new approaches to building stronger communities. Discussions focused on equity-centered insights, environmental impacts, and mental wellness.

This theme aligns with AAACF's S.E.E.D.S. initiative, its guiding framework for philanthropy, partnership, and community investment. S.E.E.D.S. focuses on five priorities: strengthening community voices, centering equity, expanding rural reach, developing youth, and securing the future through impact investing.

AAACF President and CEO Shannon Polk spoke, sharing insights on the role community foundations play in connecting people, addressing local challenges, and creating lasting impact. Operations & Facilities Manager Rosalind Vaughn also attended, connecting with philanthropy professionals from across Michigan.

A highlight of the conference was recognizing George and Judith Goodman as recipients of the 2026 Dorothy A. Johnson Community Philanthropy Award. Presented by CMF, the award honors exceptional

service and commitment to growing community philanthropy in Michigan on behalf of one or more community foundations. The award, named in 2025 in honor of CMF's founding CEO Dorothy A. Johnson, celebrates individuals who make a lasting difference through their dedication to philanthropy.

The Goodmans are longtime supporters of AAACF and donors to several of its funds, including an unrestricted fund supporting the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund (YACF). Their generosity demonstrates the role donors play in strengthening communities and creating opportunities for local residents.

AAACF was also recognized as the No. 2 community foundation in Michigan by assets, according to CMF's 2025 Annual Report. This achievement reflects the collective generosity and commitment of the donors, community partners, volunteers, and supporters who make the Foundation's work possible.

AAACF continues to strengthen connections with philanthropic leaders across Michigan, exchange ideas, and gain insights that support its work in Washtenaw County.

About the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) is a permanent charitable endowment dedicated to enriching the quality of life in Washtenaw County. Since 1963, AAACF has connected donors, nonprofits, and community partners to address pressing needs and create lasting impact. Through grantmaking, scholarships, and impact investing, AAACF stewards resources to advance equity, opportunity, and resilience, helping the region thrive for generations to come. Learn more at www.aaacf.org.

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