



2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

**Rooted in Legacy,  
Prepared for Growth**

evanston!communityfoundation



# President's Letter

Dear Evanston,

I am pleased to introduce to you our 2022 annual report, entitled "Rooted in Legacy, Prepared for Growth," which highlights the Evanston Community Foundation's commitment to building a strong foundation for our community.

As we worked to bring this report to life, I couldn't help but think of the Evanston Community Foundation as a mighty tree, like one of the many beautiful oak trees that grow right here in Evanston, deeply rooted in the rich soil of our community. We are the only organization in Evanston that can harness the people, institutions, and resources in our community, and leverage them to respond with speed and flexibility to the needs of and opportunities in our community. We can do that because of our deep roots, and the people who helped us take root here in Evanston 36 years ago.

In the decades since, we have grown strong and tall, branching out to support the diverse needs of our neighbors. Our legacy of listening and being IN community is like the sturdy trunk of the oak tree, providing stability and nourishment to our grants, leadership programs, and community initiatives. But just like a tree, we must continue to grow and adapt to changing circumstances. As we prepare for growth, like

the leaves and branches of that oak tree, we must reach higher and wider to help Evanston become the just, vibrant, and inclusive community we aspire to be.

Through the pages of this report, "Rooted in Legacy, Prepared for Growth," we invite you to join us on this journey.

Together, we can cultivate a thriving community that stands strong and tall - for now, forever, and for everyone.

Thank you all for the role that you played in making the Evanston Community Foundation what it is today, and for helping us grow into what we will be in the future.

In Ubuntu,



Sol Anderson  
President and CEO  
Evanston Community Foundation



Sol Anderson



# Rooted In Legacy: The Community's Foundation

In 1986, a group of visionary community members came together to plant the seed to establish Evanston's community foundation - with a bold vision of a more just, vibrant, and inclusive Evanston.

Though Evanston has always been a community of changemakers who have rallied to address the needs of our neighbors; this defining decade made clear that our community needed a nimble organization to respond to the emerging needs and opportunities in Evanston. Recognizing the power of endowment to address long-term challenges and needs they couldn't foresee, our founders embarked on a mission to create a dynamic organization that would address community challenges for now, forever, and for everyone.

"Responding to needs was the original justification (for the Community Foundation) because the United Way's ground rules gravitated against moving really quickly..." said Ken Lehman, ECF's Founding Board Chair, 1986. "But I think that Evanston is a community that is highly valued by its citizens... people here are committed to keeping it going and keeping it growing."



Ken Lehman, Founding Board Chair, 1986 pictured with Wife Lucy Lehman

Many of the Community Foundation's founders served on the Board of the former Evanston United Way, which secured a \$150,000 gift from the Baxter Foundation to launch the Evanston Community Foundation.

With this seed money, the newly formed Evanston Community Foundation Board of Directors launched a community-wide campaign to establish Evanston's



Former Mayor Jay Lytle, Natasha Deutsch, Ralph Segall, Betty Papangelis, Karl Berolzheimer, Mary Anne Cappel, (not pictured, Ken Lehman)

community endowment. This first endowment, now called the Forever!Fund, is truly the community's fund; established with hundreds of gifts – big and small – from all corners of the community.

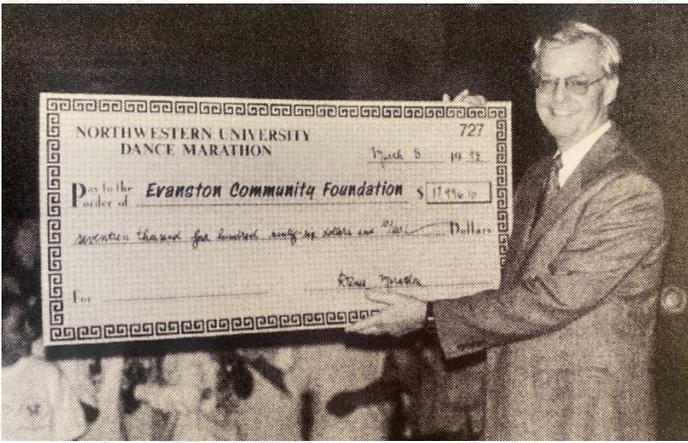
With the launch of Leadership Evanston in 1992, Evanston's community foundation established itself as the connector, catalyst, and convener for change by making connections in community that inform lasting results. Through this signature program, participants learned about Evanston's nuanced history and institutions, sharpened their citizen leadership skills, and broadened their community network.

The Evanston Community Foundation again took the long-view in December 2000 when we hired our first Executive Director. By investing in the Community Foundation itself, we expanded our modes of grantmaking, leadership programming, and convening. Through a partnership with the Mammel Foundation, we launched our root2fruit program which helped to build the capacity of dozens of local nonprofits through workshops, grants, and coaching.

In 2003, through the transformative investment of the Grand Victoria Foundation, we built our capacity



Sara Schastok



Former Mayor Jay Lytle accepts first NUDM check

to listen deeply in community. Out of that community convening, we developed a strategic grantmaking CommunityWorks plan that matched local needs and deployed community assets, and raised an endowment dedicated to the target issues identified in our community impact plan.

Throughout the next decade, our community listening continued to highlight the disparities that BIPOC\* community members face in Evanston, and in 2016, the Community's Foundation agreed unanimously to center racial equity in our programming and grantmaking. This work truly prepared us for a rapid Covid-19 response.

From the first impact of the pandemic in Evanston in March 2020, Evanston Community Foundation radically expanded its fundraising and restructured its grantmaking and programs to respond to the new world shaped by Covid-19.

By March 18, 2020 ECF launched the Evanston Community Rapid Response Fund with \$100,000 seed money from the Forever!Fund, our growing community endowment, to foster a unified philanthropic response. At the same time, our staff convened and listened deeply in the community and created a strategic vision for the use of the Fund, focused on relief, recovery, and rebuilding.

In the first year of the pandemic, the community deployed more than \$4.6 million through the Evanston Community Foundation, funding housing, food insecurity through BIPOC-owned businesses,

student computer access, guaranteed basic income for undocumented residents, and operating grants to keep our nonprofits afloat. We also made investments in collective and enduring systems change efforts, including creating the Evanston Care Network ([evanstoncarenetwork.org](http://evanstoncarenetwork.org)), increasing community outreach and access to resources through Evanston Latinos, and seeding the launch of the Reparations Stakeholder Authority of Evanston.

"I think the perfect example of the justification of ECF is the Covid era. That had created some immediate and unanticipated needs throughout the country and certainly in Evanston. And ECF was in a position to respond to something like that happening." Ken Lehman, ECF Founding Board Chair, 1986

Our founders believed deeply in action, collaboration, and partnership within the community to meet the emerging needs of Evanston. From the beginning, the Evanston Community Foundation was designed to be a people's foundation – a place where anyone could come to share their ideas and work towards a common goal.



Marybeth Schroeder facilitates LE session

We are proud of this long-standing legacy of community listening, racial equity and justice, and being a catalyst for change. As we look to the future, we are reminded to look back at the examples laid before us as we continue working toward the just, vibrant, and inclusive Evanston we envision - for now, forever, and for everyone.

\*The Community Foundation uses the term BIPOC to highlight the unique history of oppression and continual, systemic discrimination that Black and Indigenous people experience within a U.S. context. These systems, built on white supremacy culture, impact all People of Color. As such, ECF prioritizes organizations led by and/or centered on the voices of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian community members, and those impacted by multiple intersectional systems of oppression.

# Cultivating Leaders: 30 Years of Leadership Evanston

Just as a seed needs to be planted and nurtured with care and attention to grow into a healthy plant or tree, so too does a community need to be cultivated and tended to in order to grow and thrive. Leadership Evanston (LE) acts as a “farmer” of sorts, by planting the seeds of connection and collaboration among community members and nurturing their understanding of the term “leadership”. We recognize the leader in everyone and have guided over 800 LE Alumni through this signature program for three decades, to help them grow into strong, impactful leaders in our community.

This year, we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our signature program, Leadership Evanston (LE). Founded in 1992, Leadership Evanston has grown to become a widely respected program that provides a platform for local leaders to develop the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to create lasting impact for now, forever, and for everyone in Evanston.

Central to this effort is our core belief that every individual possesses the potential to be a leader and make a meaningful impact on their community. We have long believed that leadership is not limited to those in positions of authority, but rather it can be demonstrated by anyone who has the drive and vision to make positive change. By recognizing the leader in everyone, we create a culture of inclusivity that empowers individuals to take ownership of their ideas. We understand that true leadership comes from within and can be expressed in various forms, such as through creativity, empathy, and collaboration. By fostering a community that values and celebrates these qualities, we can create an Evanston where every individual



Judith Treadway, Karen Chavers and Carol Mullins at Leadership Evanston

is empowered to make life-changing impact for the betterment of everyone.

“Leadership Evanston not only deepened my knowledge of the systems in our community but



Former Mayor Lorraine Morton with LE participant, and former Alderman, Peter Braithwaite

also made me recognize the leader in myself... I never thought I could make lasting impact on my community, but my cohort and program facilitators helped me realize the change-maker in myself.” Akilah Wilson, Leadership Evanston, 2023

The diversity of our trained alumni and their contributions across Evanston is a testament to the effectiveness of the Leadership Evanston program. Our 800+ alumni have gone on to serve on boards, commissions, and other leadership roles in education,



Joan Hickman (far right) in a lively Leadership discussion

healthcare, non-profits, government, and business. Alumni have helped shape the future of Evanston by launching transformative community initiatives including Evanston Grows, Our House, Dear Evanston, and the Evanston Reparations Movement.

“There’s so much history here (in Evanston),” said Denise Martin, Leadership Evanston Alum, Class of 1992. “So, if you’re interested in understanding the community you live in... Then it (Leadership Evanston) is a breeding ground for all kinds of networks that can happen. So, if you’re interested in the local level, in your community, and if you want to be involved... you should be in Leadership Evanston.”



Karli Butler (middle), Director of Leadership and Ubuntu Institute, celebrating 30 years of Leadership Evanston at Celebrate!Evanston 2022

“As I think about the future of Leadership Evanston, I think of accessibility, and creating a welcoming learning space for all community members. I think about an intentional focus on developing BIPOC leaders here in Evanston, and the overall growth of the Leadership Evanston Programming,” said Karli Butler, Director of Community Leadership. learning space for all community members. I think about an intentional focus on developing BIPOC leaders here in Evanston, and the overall growth of the Leadership Evanston Programming,” said Karli Butler, Director of Community Leadership.



Jennifer Moran pictured at Celebrate!Evanston 2022

Last year, we celebrated our own leadership transition as Jennifer Moran retired from her role as Leadership Evanston Director, and we promoted Karli Butler, to sit at the helm of an expanded Leadership Evanston program in her new role as Director of Community Leadership.





# Thriving Together: Building a stronger more sustainable Evanston

Our grantmaking and programming has seen its own unique journey towards growth and development, just like the trees that line our beautiful city.

For nearly four decades, we have catalyzed, elevated, and accelerated the work of neighbors and change-makers committed to building a more just, vibrant, and inclusive Evanston. From building strong and diverse leaders, to spearheading our community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Foundation has galvanized and convened our diverse and vibrant community to innovate in times of crisis and seize our greatest opportunities. Today, that means building Justice, Resiliency, and the community interconnectedness of Ubuntu.

Embedded in our new strategic plan is the spirit of Ubuntu, a South African term that translates to "I am because we are." Ubuntu reflects our fundamental belief that true philanthropy is rooted in the love of humanity and a deep sense of interconnectedness between neighbors. An interconnectedness we work to honor in all of our programs and grantmaking.

By listening deeply IN community, and analyzing the cracks along racial fault lines that were further exposed in these past years, we have taken great strides to elevate voices, connect and strengthen Evanston's nonprofit sector, and build justice and resiliency through our grantmaking.

In 2022, we invested in the launch of transformative Collective & Enduring Initiatives that promise to yield a visible and measurable impact on the lives of Evanston's most vulnerable community members by addressing inequities in our community's systems. The combination of Guaranteed Basic Income and a Postsecondary Savings Account for every

kindergartner promises a collective systems change strategy that invests in the economic stability of Evanston's most impacted neighbors so that we can preserve our diversity and all that is good about Evanston. All of these efforts are deeply collaborative and depend on partners and change-makers from all corners of Evanston.



Rebecca Cacayuran

This year we also found more creative ways to fund promising BIPOC-led, grassroots initiatives, by expanding our grantmaking portfolio to include community grassroots groups and projects led by neighborhood businesses with a charitable purpose. You can read exciting examples of these types of community efforts in the Nurturing a Brighter Future and the Sowing Seeds of Hope sections.

We are committed to building upon this work for generations to come, and we will remain steadfast in our dedication to the principle of Ubuntu to bring the brightest and boldest ideas to life. We believe that by working together, we can create a better future for all members of our community, and we are honored to be a part of this effort - with you - for now, forever, and for everyone.

In Ubuntu,

Rebecca Cacayuran  
VP of Community Investment

# Nurturing a Brighter Future Together: The Evolution of root2fruit

root2fruit is a story of community investment and growth. Just as trees provide vital resources to support life, small organizations in the community can provide essential services and support as trusted neighbors to those in need. By investing in the growth of these organizations, we are helping them to become strong and resilient: like the roots of a healthy tree.

In 2002, Ann Balusek of the Mammel Foundation approached us with a proposition to invest in small to midsize organizations, with the aim of helping them build their capacity and fulfill their missions successfully.

For twenty years, our root2fruit program was instrumental in growing small organizations that grew to impact the lives of so many – organizations like Books & Breakfast, Chessmen Club, Curt’s Café, Evanston Scholars, James B. Moran Center, Mudlark Theater, Rebuilding Exchange, and Shorefront Legacy Center. This partnership between the Mammel Foundation and the Evanston Community Foundation invested over \$1.6 million into building the infrastructure of 58 organizations that serve the Evanston community—an incredible legacy.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, several organizations

emerged to meet unmet needs in Evanston.

These organizations required a different type of capacity building support than the historic root2fruit programming.

So, the Community Foundation went back to the drawing board and re-imagined the root2fruit program. Thus, in 2022, the root2fruit bootcamp was officially launched!

Instead of a three-year learning cohort, root2fruit bootcamp participants undergo an 18-month intensive capacity-building program that helps nurture their ideas from a seedling to a strong budding root in the community. We are proud to have welcomed four emerging organizations into our inaugural root2fruit bootcamp cohort in 2022: **C&W Foundation, Evanston CASE, Evanston Grows,** and **Evanston Latinos.**



“We created root2fruit over twenty years ago to help grassroots organizations build capacity in order to thrive and succeed. We decided to focus on Evanston because of the ability to have a measurable impact. It’s not uncommon for a philanthropic program like root2fruit to sundown after such a long time. Instead, we used new energy and collaboration with old and new staff to revive root2fruit and update and energize its contribution to the community.”

**Ann Balusek, Mammel Foundation**

# root2fruit bootcamp Spotlight: Evanston Grows



Eggleston Crew

As we look back on our 2022 cohort grant-making, one organization stands out as a shining example of the impact that can be achieved when we plant the seeds of connection and collaboration within the nonprofit community. Jean Fies, avid gardener and founding member of Evanston Grows, has been an exemplary community member who has leveraged her curiosity, time, and passion to help Evanston thrive as a just, vibrant, and inclusive community. In fact, it all began when Jean fed her curiosity through our signature programming, Leadership Evanston (LE).

Jean first became involved with the Community Foundation when she participated in LE's 26th cohort. Recently retired and already volunteering around Evanston, Jean wanted to look for ways to better connect with and serve her community.

"I was doing gardening at Fleetwood-Jourdain and at the YWCA and I always felt like it was really important for our community and that we can do this more places," said Jean.

Energized by the connections and opportunities present through her Leadership Evanston experience, Jean took this passion and turned it into a growing and integral organization that helps feed Evanstonians across the community.



Farm Manager

Jennifer Moran, Program Officer of Leadership Evanston, reflects on her memory of Jean going through the LE program. “She got to know people. She pulled people in, and in her subtle and focused way began to pull people into her goal... I do think that she believes in her core being that through the process of building a community garden, you’re building community.”

Jean graduated from the Leadership Evanston program, and for several years continued to help volunteer at organizations in Evanston until she became a founder of Evanston Grows in 2021.

“Evanston Grows was born out of the need to address food insecurity. But it wasn’t just the pandemic that motivated the founding of Evanston Grows, it expedited and exacerbated the need. Evanston Grows is a collective of organizations, as well as having our own farms, that work within Evanston. Our goal is to be within every ward of Evanston. Have growing space where we’re growing fresh, organic produce that is being distributed to those who need it most within the community. Additionally, we address health equity because we all go to the grocery. We all know its crazy what things cost...,” said Jean.

Jean is now part of the current cohort of organizations that are participating in the inaugural root2fruit bootcamp program.

“Being part of the root2fruit cohort has benefits beyond what I imagined. One of the most important things I’m learning is, we’re all emerging organizations. We all have different missions, different focus, but we’re all serving Evanston, and we’re all trying to make it a better place.”

Jean’s story is a testament to the Community Foundation’s belief that the key to a strong and vibrant nonprofit community is collaboration. We are committed to planting the seeds of connection within nonprofit leaders, so that they can bear fruit in the form of stronger, more impactful organizations.

“Receiving funding from the Evanston Community Foundation allows the community to see how Evanston Grows plays an important part as a partner in building the Evanston community. I feel like when you get funding from the Evanston Community Foundation, you’re being recognized for your role in making Evanston a better place for all.”, says Jean.



Planting Day



Fence Installation Team



Fleetwood Planting Day

# Sowing Seeds of Hope: Growing a Stronger, More Connected Evanston

In 2022, we took our grantmaking to new heights by including for-profit businesses with a charitable purpose in our grant eligibility standards. One of our very first grantees of this recalibrated grant cycle is the lively and tenacious



Kandi Corbbins, iKandi Hair Studio, Owner

Kandi Corbbins—owner of iKandi Studio—for her work with young Black Evanstonians interested in professional hair care.

The community was first able to support Kandi's incredible work through a Community Building grant from Evanston Cradle to Career's (EC2C) Advocates for Action. As a partner in EC2C, Evanston Community Foundations works to support the Advocates in their grantmaking, and also works to create a bridge between their Community Building Grants and the Community Foundation's own grantmaking cycles.

"My first introduction to the Evanston Community Foundation was a community building grant that I received in 2018 in order to put on a one-time class for kids," said Kandi. "It was called Paint Your Puffs, where children painted their likeness on a canvas bag and discussed what it was like to live in Evanston and be a person of color and have natural hair. And what we found was that some kids didn't know how to take care of their hair; and that some kids were really interested in taking care of their hair but didn't know it could be a career path. So, from that one class I think I got some data that I needed to say, 'Hey, maybe you need to be doing more.'" said Kandi.

And more she did. Kandi reached out to ETHS Career Pathways and Family Focus to build the innovative iKandi Academy where Evanston's children get a chance to practice hands-on skills, learn a trade, manage a business, and maintain a self-care regimen.

iKandi Academy applied for a grant through the Community Foundation's expanded E-Town Innovations grants process, which provides an avenue for grassroots organizations and businesses with a charitable purpose to receive funding for their life-changing work in Evanston neighborhoods.



The E-Town grants selection committee—made up of dedicated community members who are proximate to the needs and opportunities in Evanston—came together to read the E-Town applications and were impressed and excited by Kandi’s vision to launch the collaborative and groundbreaking Style n Biz weekly program. Once the grant was recommended by the committee and approved by the Evanston Community Foundation Board, ECF staff reached out to grantmaking partners to help the Community Foundation fund iKandi Academy’s full grant request amount.

iKandi Academy is now advancing equity in Evanston by giving children, in grades 6-12, the tools they may not have otherwise had access to, showing children that people who look like them can have a successful business, and giving children another direction to go outside of a traditional college experience.

Furthermore, iKandi Academy’s weekly Style n Biz course serves as a testament to the Community Foundation’s unwavering efforts to foster a vibrant and inclusive community for ALL to thrive. By equipping young Black Evanstonians with the knowledge and skills to pursue professional haircare, we simultaneously recognize, and honor, the legacy these indispensable institutions hold in our Black community.



iKandi student preparing for the day



## Did You Know?

The family of the late Joe “Butch” Martin, which holds a donor-advised fund at the Community Foundation, immediately stepped forward to help fulfill the grant.



Kandi leading lesson on hair coloring techniques.

# 2022 Grant Recipients

## E-Town Innovation Grants

Support nonprofit and community organizations to be bold and innovative in solving today's equity challenges, prioritizing Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color (BIPOC).

- Books & Breakfast
- Center for Independent Futures
- C & W Foundation
- Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)
- Connections for the Homeless
- Evanston Development Cooperative
- Evanston Grows
- Evanston Public Library
- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
- iKandi Hair Studio, iKandi Academy
- Kids Create Change
- Northlight Theatre
- Oakton Community College Educational Foundation
- Open Studio Project
- Purple Line Adventure Play
- Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago
- Second Baptist Church of Evanston
- Y.O.U (Youth & Opportunity United)
- YWCA Evanston/Northshore

## Nonprofit Growth and Sustainability

Support a thriving nonprofit sector and their ongoing work in Evanston by investing in nonprofits' organizational capacity and sustainability.

- Books & Breakfast
- Childcare Network of Evanston
- Erie Family Health Centers
- Evanston Grows
- Evanston Scholars
- Girls Play Sports, Inc.
- Impact Behavioral Health Partners
- Interfaith Action of Evanston
- Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
- James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy
- Northlight Theatre
- Open Communities
- Open Studio Project
- Rebuilding Exchange
- The Harbour, Inc.
- Y.O.U (Youth & Opportunity United)
- Youth Job Center
- YWCA Evanston/North Shore

## root2fruit bootcamp

Build organizational capacity toward long-term sustainability in small emerging organizations.

- C & W Foundation
- Evanston CASE
- Evanston Grows
- Evanston Latinos
- YWCA Evanston/Northshore

## Community Catalyst Grants

These grants provide small scale financial support for time-sensitive opportunities and needs.

- City of Evanston Gun Buyback Fund
- Evanston Care Network, c/o Evanston Public Library
- Evanston Early Childhood Council
- Highland Park Community Foundation
- Kitchen Table Stories Project
- Lake County Community Foundation
- Latinx Leadership Business Group
- Literacy Works
- Open Studio Project



## Collective & Enduring Initiatives

The Community Foundation brings together nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders to address challenges and change systems over the long term in Evanston through our Collective & Enduring Grant Initiatives.

**Community Coalition to End Homelessness in Evanston to Connections for the Homeless with the City of Evanston, Alliance to End Homelessness, Interfaith Action of Evanston, and more than 30 institutional partners**  
Community Coalition to End Homelessness in Evanston Start Up

**Evanston Grows with Curt's Café, Edible Evanston, Evanston Food Exchange, West End Garden Initiative/ Evanston Fight for Black Lives, Garden Club of Evanston, and Evanston Made**  
Evanston Grows Start Up

## Literacy Works

Clear Language and Translation Services Contract for Evanston partners

**Northwestern University with City of Evanston and Evanston Community Foundation** Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

## Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston

Communications and Administrative Capacity Building **Savings for Success, to YWCA Evanston/North Shore with Evanston/Skokie School District 65, Evanston Community Foundation, Literacy Works, and Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)**

Childrens' Savings Accounts Program

**The AUX with Growing Season, Fix Development, and Several Evanston Black-owned businesses**  
Community Space at The AUX

# 2022 Grants and Distributions: \$3.23 million

- Community-centered Grants
- Donor Advised Grants to ECF & Evanston NPOS
- Fund Distributions to Nonprofits and Special Projects
- Endowment Draws for Operations
- Donor Advised Grants Beyond Evanston

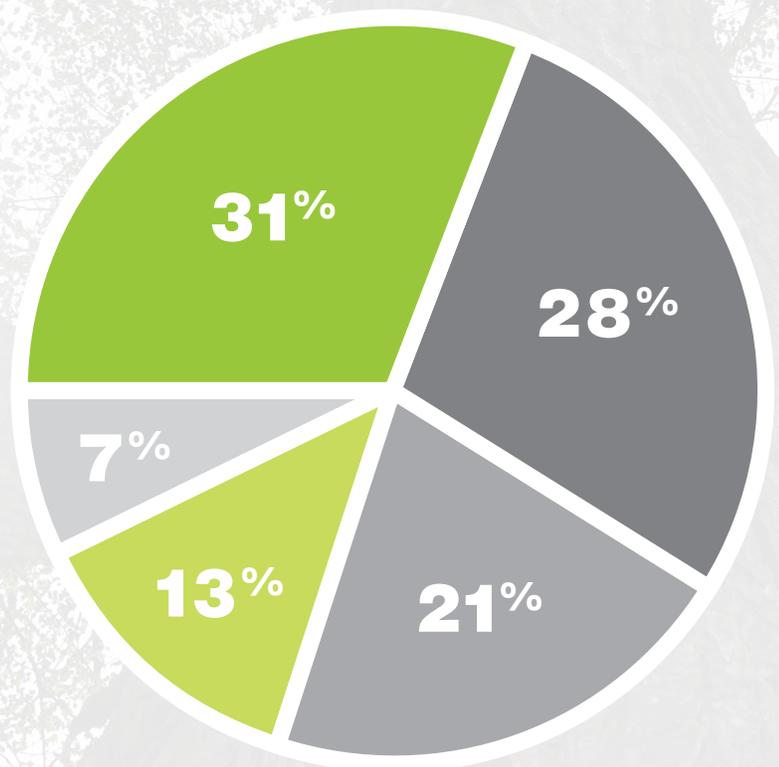
*ECF's Communityworks fund provided 15% of the funding for Community-centered grants focused in the areas of early childhood, land use and protection and workforce development.*

*ECF was honored to partner on a community-centered process to distribute \$248,500 in United Way of Metro Chicago funds as a partner in Evanston Cradle to Career.*

**Community-centered grants are a reflection of ECF's learning in community and our community's engagement in grant decision-making.**

**These grants include:**

- Collective & Enduring Initiatives for Community Systems Change
- E-Town Innovation
- Nonprofit Growth & Sustainability



# Fertile Grounds for Giving: Helping Our Community Blossom and Flourish

We strengthen Evanston by helping donors give to, through, and with the Evanston Community Foundation. Donors trust us to activate these local philanthropic dollars, so resources are put to work to meet the greatest needs of today while cultivating sustainability for tomorrow. We strive to encourage all citizens to feel empowered as philanthropists to support their community.

**135**

Funds Under Management



**\$9.9**

Million in Funds for Organizations



**\$985,625**

Invested in Community-centered Grants in 2022 (this includes community catalyst, collective and enduring initiatives and Nonprofit Growth & Sustainability).



**\$689,625**

Distributed to Nonprofits and Special Projects in 2022



# 850

Leadership Evanston Alumni  
Since 1992

## Ways to give **TO**, **THROUGH**, & **WITH** the Community Foundation

Donors give **TO** the Foundation to support ECF's programs, grantmaking, operations and special initiatives with outright contributions to the **Now!Fund** and the **Forever!Fund**.

Some donors choose to do this through **The Impact Collective**, ECF's monthly giving program, increasing annual giving capacity by making gifts monthly throughout the year.

**SELECT "RECURRING  
DONATION AMOUNT" TO JOIN**

**THE IMPACT  
COLLECTIVE !**

Donors give **THROUGH** the Foundation primarily by investing in a **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**, receiving an immediate full tax deduction, and granting money when a donor sees an investment opportunity at another nonprofit.

Donors give **WITH** the Foundation by **partnering with ECF as a Grantmaking Partner**, investing in our highly recommended grants slates, which are recommended by our community-member led grants committees. Some donors do this through their ECF DAF, ECF endowed field of interest fund, or externally held giving vehicle.

# 2022 Financial Review

ECF's financial results for 2022 are largely impacted by the volatility of the stock market. We adapted, all the while laying a foundation for a new strategic plan, which comes with its own financial investments.

The Foundation's 2022 revenues show increased contributions which are ultimately negated by a significant loss (-13.8%) in our investment portfolio. The increased contribution was due to the acquisition of an agency fund valued at \$3.8M. In total, we established five new agency funds for four different nonprofit organizations, allowing us to continue to support the long-term growth of the sector.

As noted in the report of the investment council, the funds invested in ECF's portfolio lost 13.8% in 2022, which is the worst performing year for ECF since 2008 (-19.9%). This is just the arduous reality of long-term investing: there will always be down years that can cause uncertainty. Fortunately, we can boast a 34 year average return of 8.6%, and we know better times are ahead. The Council remains steadfast in the ultimate

goal of the portfolio: to mitigate risk, allowing the Community Foundation and all of our fundholders to build toward longevity and financial stability, forever.

With our Rapid Response Fund closing after 2020, both 2021 and 2022 financials have reflected a return to more stabilized, relatively predictable grantmaking and expenses. Our 2022 expenses reflect increased costs of general operating needs due to inflation, but also increased grantmaking. We are pleased to have filled all open staff positions in 2022, with resulted in eight new faces to the ECF team.

Overall, ECF grants and distributions totaled \$3.2M, including nearly \$1M in Community-Centered grants (slightly less than 2021 due to the timing of cohort-learning programming, which started in early 2023). This total also includes \$897k in Donor Advised Grants to ECF and Evanston Nonprofits, an increase of \$554k (151%) from 2021.

## Summary of Financial Data

as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 in thousands

### Net Assets Unaudited\*

	2022	2021
Assets	\$34,963	\$38,533
Liabilities**	<\$7,617>	<\$8,397>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$27,345</b>	<b>\$30,136</b>

### Revenue

	2022	2021
Contributions	\$8,967	\$3,958
Program revenues	<\$43>	<32>
Investment results	<\$5,200>	<\$3,8767>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,768</b>	<b>\$7,802</b>

### Expense

	2022	2021
Program (including grants)	\$3,991	\$3,956
Management	\$537	\$161
Fundraising	\$219	\$161
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$4,746</b>	<b>\$4,514</b>

### Increase in Net Assets

	2022	2021
Revenues over Expense	<\$2,791>	\$3,288

\* ECF's 2022 audited financial statements will available for review at [www.evanstonforever.org](http://www.evanstonforever.org), and at ECF's office in August 2023.

\*\*The funds ECF hold for other nonprofits are categorized as liabilities, in accordance with accounting standards.

# 2022 Investment Results

What a difference a year makes! A year ago, commenting on 2021, the report of the Investment Council began with, “In 2021, the good times continued to roll, at least in the financial markets.” No one imagined that the party had already ended as those words were being written. The decisions made by the central banks around the world to deal with inflation, and not cooperating by being “transitory” in duration, caused short term interest rates to increase 4 percentage points (400 basis points). This had an immediate effect on the prices of financial assets. The Wilshire 5000 Index, our benchmark for domestic equities, was down -19.04% and the Barclays Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index was down -13.01%, which was the second worst decline that index has experienced. Foreign markets fared a little better than the domestic markets. The sum total of all this was a bad outcome for holders of financial assets: our Blended Benchmark was down -11.09% and the Foundation posted a poorer return, declining 13.77% in value.



# 2023 Investment Outlook

A song from the 60’s told us that “Mama said there would be days like this.” Mama was a good student of financial markets! Most periods in which the Federal Reserve raises interest rates ultimately end because something breaks. In this case, it may be the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in March breaking the financial world. Whether this weakness in the banking system will lead to a broader slowdown in the economy is anyone’s guess. At this moment, the Investment Council has the portfolio cautiously positioned. Cash and short-term treasury bonds are at historically high levels, partly because it is the Council’s view that short-term interest rates represent

one of the few places at this time that offer value in the marketplace. This will not be the case forever, of course. We firmly believe that market declines sow the seeds of the next recovery, just as surely as the forest fire prepares the forest for new growth. That is the other part of why cash and equivalents are held at historically high levels: to take advantage of the opportunities that will present themselves in time. As long-term investors, we appreciate the need to sometimes be patient.

**-Ralph Segall**, Investment Council Chair,  
Former ECF Board Chair 1992-1996

# Looking Forward: A Letter from Our Board Chair

As I finish out my ECF board chair term, I am filled with respect and appreciation for the community members on whose shoulders we stand- those who grew the Community Foundation to the amazing organization it is today.

After listening deeply in community and analyzing what is making well documented and substantive impact in cities across the country, we launched a strategic plan that focuses on building racial and economic justice, elevating underrepresented voices, and connecting and strengthening Evanston's nonprofit sector.

This past year, we worked closely with community partners to craft collective initiatives that will act as levers to help us realize a more just and resilient Evanston. In the coming years, the Community Foundation will work with our partners to ensure that:

- Every child attending public school in Evanston will receive seed and matching funding for a postsecondary savings account (529 plan), through a community-wide Savings for Success initiative.
- We build on our Guaranteed Basic Income pilot partnership to provide our most vulnerable neighbors the economic stability they need to afford to remain in Evanston and thrive here with dignity.

- Our signature program, Leadership Evanston, expands to cultivate and nurture the leader in everyone and connects our alums to leadership roles throughout the Evanston community.
- We spearhead opportunities for shared operations and efficiencies among Evanston nonprofits and empower organizations to better fulfill their missions.



Larry Singer

This vision builds upon our legacy and takes it in a bold, new direction, calling the Community Foundation, its allies, and partners to meet new challenges and opportunities.

Are we "Prepared for Growth"? We are with your help. Join us.

Yours,  
Larry Singer  
2022 Board Chair

## A Note From Our Incoming Board Chair

I am proud to help guide ECF as we embark on our bold, mission-driven goals to empower the Evanston community. As incoming Board Chair, I am committed to ensuring that ECF continues to provide valuable resources to Evanston. I believe that our work is critical to the success and growth of the community, and I am dedicated to seeing it through.



Sharon Robinson,  
Incoming Board Chair

# Your Community Foundation



**Sol Anderson**  
President & CEO



**Robby Bardwell**  
Director of Donor Relations



**Jenna Beltrano**  
Program Officer,  
Thriving Nonprofits



**Karli Butler**  
Director of Community  
Leadership



**Rebecca Cacayuran**  
Vice President of  
Community Investment



**Lauren Davis**  
Program Associate



**Cynthia Dominguez**  
Vice President of  
Finance and Operations



**Tori Foreman,**  
Administrative Associate



**Jennifer Moran**  
Program Officer,  
Leadership Evanston



**Rebecca Parmet**  
Vice President of  
Development



**Andrea Schroering**  
Accounting Manager



**Nadia Spock,**  
Database Associate



**Jenny Valdés Del Valle**  
Program Officer, E-Town



**Julie Villagomez**  
Director of Operations



**Akilah Wilson**  
Communications  
Manager

# 2022 Board of Directors

The Evanston Community Foundation salutes our dedicated Board of Directors. The board is broadly representative of the community we serve and vitally important to the work we do by providing leadership and sharing knowledge.

Lisa Altenbernd, *Past Chair*

Paul Brenner

Bettye Cohns\*\*

Matt Feldman, *Treasurer*

Linda Gerber

Sandeep Ghaey

Sarah Gordon,  
*Governance Chair*

David Graham,  
*Community Investment Chair*

Lee Hart

Barbara Hiller\*\*

Carolyn Lickerman\*

Minya Nance\*

Laura-Min Proctor

Sharon Robinson, *Vice Chair*

Bart Rocca

Chris Rothwell\*\*

Marcel Sallis

Larry Singer, *Board Chair*

Gene Servillo\*

Michael Walker

Bryant Wallace, *Secretary*

Todd Wiener,  
*Philanthropic Engagement Chair*

Eric Witherspoon\*\*

Judy Witt\*

\*Service ended in 2022

\*\*Service began in 2022



# Leadership Network

Ann Mammel Balusek

Marjorie Benton

Karl Berolzheimer

Paul J. Finnegan

Joseph P. Flanagan

Kendal Gladish

Joan Gunzberg

Kirk Hoopingarner

Judy Kemp

Ken Lehman

Jay Lytle

Mark McCarville

Kevin Mott

Eleanor Revelle

Penelope Sachs

Sara L. Schastok

Ralph Segall

Ingrid Stafford

Ronna Stamm

Larry Ter Molen

Hon. Elizabeth Tisdahl



# Evanston Community Foundation Committees



Audit

Community Investment

Finance

Governance and Sustainability

E-Town Innovation Grants Selection

Events

Investment Council

Non-profit Growth and Sustainability Grants Selection

Philanthropic Engagement

root2fruit Grants Selection

Thank you for your  
continued support,  
trust and partnership!

We look forward to  
growing together!

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