



2023 Impact Report

Here for Good.

YOUR PARTNER IN

Here for Good.

**\$9
Million**

Total Grants and
Scholarships Awarded
in 2023

2023

IMPACT REPORT

**\$160.52
Million**

Total Net Assets
Year End 2023



Kaye Englin
President & CEO



ReShonda Young
Board Chair

MISSION: To inspire people and connect resources to enrich our communities.

VISION: A vibrant region of thriving people.

VALUES: Collaboration, Equity, Leadership, and Trust

Dear Partners,

The power of partnerships lies at the heart of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's impact on communities and individuals. Throughout our 67-year history, we've recognized the transformative potential of collaboration with others. This past year has been one of growth - not only in our financial impact - but, more importantly, in how we define our leadership role across our region. We continue to examine our history, listen to our communities, and lean into developing even deeper connections. Through this understanding, we acknowledge and embrace that our influence extends far beyond traditional grantmaking.

Our evolution has allowed us to identify as more than a grant provider, but as a convener and leader in building stronger communities. Today, we are a catalyst for positive change, actively collaborating to dismantle barriers to equity, strengthening our connection with our affiliate foundations, and fostering more robust relationships with our nonprofit partners. However, we understand that our impact hinges not only on what we do, but how we do it.

Our values guide us, and we hold ourselves accountable using the framework of trust-based philanthropy. By taking these actions, we amplify our impact and the efforts of all those working to create opportunities for everyone to thrive. In 2023 alone, with the unwavering support and generosity of partners like you, CFNEIA granted \$9 million to nonprofit organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our communities.

You move us forward. Everything we do is made possible by the philanthropic vision of our fundholders and donors. Our assets, now exceeding \$160 million, allow us to carry out our commitment to community and create transformational change for generations to come. Thank you for your partnership in enriching the places you love. We are deeply grateful for the inspiration you provide, as together, we connect to create good that ripples across our region.

In Gratitude,

“We’re going to give them the opportunity to reach their potential. We’re going to actually show them that it’s possible.”

Bryan Burton, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley



Watch the video

Leading tomorrow

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley provide path to potential for local youth

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley has served local youth for over 60 years. Their mission – to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as responsible, productive, caring citizens – means nurturing the community leaders of tomorrow. “These kids running around here in the Club are the ones who will be the mayors, the senators, the city council people, the school board members. They are the kids who will be running this community in the future,” said Bryan Burton, the Boys and Girls Clubs CEO.

Fulfilling that mission starts with showing youth the range of their potential and the possibilities available to them. Kids who come to the Club come from diverse backgrounds. By exposing them to what is possible through programming and community connections, the Club opens their eyes to opportunities. “Our job is to show them potential for the future,” said Bryan.

The Club also partners with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, receiving nearly

\$1.5 million in grants through the Foundation since 2003. “Eighty percent of our budget is staffing, and it’s beneficial to have the Community Foundation understand what general operations mean and how important it is to have good staff for youth,” said Rebecca McCarty, Boys and Girls Clubs’ director of development.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley Youth Development Fund, held with CFNEIA, also provides a trusted charitable opportunity for people to support the Club. “The history of the Community Foundation and its reputation all make it easier for people to trust that their money’s going in the right direction,” said Bryan.

Ultimately, investing in youth is an investment in the Cedar Valley’s future. “If we do our job right, then a lot of the issues that you see in the Cedar Valley won’t be happening anymore,” said Bryan.

It’s about giving every child the opportunity to realize their potential, showing them that it’s not just a dream but a tangible possibility.



Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley Youth Development Fund

Established in 2013 with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley Youth Development Fund provides a stable source of funding for the Club to use as needed to fulfill its mission. The endowed fund provides tax benefits, including the Endow Iowa 25% state tax credit, to donors who want to support the Club. Nonprofit funds also provide financial management and administrative support to alleviate the burden on our nonprofit partners.

Find a list of all of our nonprofit funds at cfneia.org/nonprofitfunds.

“We only have so many dollars, and there’s so much need out there right now that we want to make sure we’re leveraging what we are doing by talking to other organizations.”

Janet Buls, Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging

Reaching rural communities

Regional and local nonprofits partner to fight food insecurity in Howard County

Howard County is home to approximately 9,400 people on our state’s northeast border. It is the boyhood home of humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Norman Borlaug. However, in the home county of a man who saved millions of lives by preventing hunger and famine, 213,200 meals are missing, according to Feeding America. “Everyone is facing rising food costs, but in rural areas, the distance you have to travel to your grocery store can be significant, which is a barrier and an additional expense,” said Karli Schmelzer, operations and development director for Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC).

Thankfully, nonprofits are filling the meal gap for residents across the county. The NEICAC, Riceville Food Pantry, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, and Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging uniquely address area food insecurity while partnering to ensure the spectrum of needs, from child to senior citizen, is met.

In 2023, the Howard County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community

Foundation of Northeast Iowa, provided funding to each of these organizations addressing food insecurity for a total of \$25,000 in grants.

The organizations with a regional reach work alongside those based in Howard County to create local solutions to hunger. They partner to make resources go farther for the people they serve. “We’ve only got so many dollars, and there’s so much need out there right now that we want to make sure we’re leveraging what we are doing by talking to other organizations,” said Janet Buls, director of nutrition services for Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging.

These nonprofits work together to reach as many in need as possible by providing grocery options at the community pantry, gathering people to enjoy a hot meal, or having food delivered to someone’s door. “We support each other so we can do more,” said Diane Setka, Riceville Food Pantry board secretary. “Community collaboration is key to ending hunger in Howard County.”



“Time and time again, in the work we’re doing, restoration of hope is the most important piece.”

Ali Parrish, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity



Watch the video

A restoration of hope

Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity takes direction from neighborhoods

For 34 years, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity has been helping families achieve homeownership and partnering with communities in Black Hawk, Butler, Bremer, and Buchanan counties. “Our core focus is building stability for families through affordable homeownership,” said Ali Parrish, executive director.

While this focus remains, a new approach to providing hope for entire neighborhoods has emerged as a prominent priority for the organization’s work in Waterloo. The nonprofit’s adoption of an asset-based community development approach is creating transformational change. “It really starts with residents first and learning what their gifts are in their neighborhood, what concerns they may have, what their dreams are for their neighborhood, and then building out coalitions and connections,” said Ali.

Habitat began its engagement in true neighborhood revitalization when it became a partner in efforts in the Walnut Neighborhood

in Waterloo, where residents and churches had already come together to do asset-based community development through Christian Community Development, another local nonprofit. Habitat has taken that knowledge and is now applying it to Waterloo’s Church Row Neighborhood. In each neighborhood, the people who live there are the catalyst for change. “We can’t invest in all these areas if we don’t have residents at the table saying, ‘This is my neighborhood. This is what I care about,’” said Jenna Petersen, neighborhood impact coordinator.

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa has come alongside Habitat as an early funder and collaborator in this initiative. “The Community Foundation has been engaged in this process since we began, not only through grants but by helping develop community connections,” said Ali.

A restoration of hope in neighborhoods creates ripple effects in the entire community.



415 Walnut Collective

In 2019, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity purchased the historic Walnut Street Baptist Church to hold and protect the building while community stakeholders collaborated to form the 415 Walnut Collective. In an effort to preserve, renovate, and revitalize the space, the Collective began the visioning process and developed a reuse plan to bring the community's new vision of the building to life. CFNEIA serves as the fiscal sponsor for the Collective and holds the 415 Walnut Collective Fund, managing donations to the project.

Find a list of all of our special project funds at cfneia.org/specialprojects.

“We are in this together. Your health is my health. When you strengthen me, you strengthen all those behind me.”

Julie Molisho, The River ARC



Watch the video

A welcoming community

The River ARC provides a bridge to success for refugees and immigrants

Julie Molisho was born and raised in Congo. She has a bachelor's degree and attended law school in her home country. Still, when she and her husband arrived in the United States to pursue more opportunities, she experienced the challenges many newcomers face. “I didn’t speak English. It was hard for me to navigate any system,” said Julie, founder of The River ARC.

In 2014, her family settled in Waterloo, where she began assisting fellow Congolese immigrants as a French interpreter at her workplace. Julie soon became an advocate for her community’s specific needs. “I was helping people with transportation, healthcare, food, clothes. That’s the reason I started The River ARC, to address all these needs, not only myself but having more people who can help,” said Julie.

Partnering with other organizations is vital to The River ARC’s ability to provide life-changing resources. The organization supplies education, awareness, and language support to identify needs, but Julie sees The River ARC as the bridge

to partners who can deliver critical services. “Building partnerships is the key because I have the drive, I have the passion, but this is not enough to help this community,” Julie said.

The River ARC achieved nonprofit status in 2022 and received its first grant in 2023 through the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa’s Black Hawk County grant process. “The collaboration with the Community Foundation is crucial. It will help us build capacity and keep doing the work we are doing to help the community of refugees and immigrants,” Julie said.

Julie is also a partner in Advancing Equity in the Cedar Valley, a community cohort, led by CFNEIA and Black Hawk County Public Health, collaborating to address barriers and eliminate inequities. She believes the community can be a place of belonging if residents take the first step in building relationships. “We are in this together. Your health is my health. When you strengthen me, you strengthen all those behind me.”



“The goal is to create this amazing synergy where we’re not even needed anymore because people are thriving.”

Dean Feltes, One City United



Watch the video

Opportunity for all

One City United builds belief in self for people overcoming barriers to success

One City United has a clear goal: to provide a pathway for all, regardless of their past, to thrive and succeed. The organization has been working to help end crisis, poverty, and addiction in Waterloo since 2018.

One City United nurtures potential and transforms lives through programs like Momentum, an employment program that teaches vital soft skills and provides knowledge to overcome barriers, and To Work, a program focused on transportation needs.

The only requirement for participants in One City's programs is having two or more significant barriers to employment or life. Common barriers include criminal background, addiction, and homelessness. This model creates a diverse and equitable environment. “The simplicity of the model just creates equity. It creates inclusion. It creates diversity,” said Dean Feltes, One City United executive director.

But One City United isn't just about finding jobs; it's about helping people believe in themselves.

Through partnerships with employers, they advocate for giving opportunities, not second chances. “You have some of the best employees you'll ever find if you create an environment for them to be able to thrive and give them the opportunity,” said Dean.

Community partnerships are at the core of One City United's success. The nonprofit has a clear identity and collaborates with other organizations to provide wrap-around services. “That's always my dream, is to see more organizations partnering together and just making a bigger impact in people's lives,” said Dean. The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is a funding partner with One City, providing \$39,000 in grants to the growing organization.

Dean's ultimate objective is to make generational impacts that lead to a community where One City is no longer needed. “The goal is to create this amazing synergy where we're not even needed anymore because people are thriving.”

small
opportunities
often the
beginning of
movements
equip. restore.



Robert L. and Eleanor L. Kearns

Robert and Eleanor grew up in Waterloo and left a legacy of generosity that lives on today. The couple was committed to their community, and through their estate plan established the Robert L. and Eleanor L. Kearns Family Fund after Eleanor's passing in 2018. The fund supports grantmaking to organizations, like One City United, improving the quality of life in Black Hawk County through CFNEIA's competitive grant process. Their enduring vision provides flexible funding to address current local community needs.

Leave a legacy for your community. Learn more at cfneia.org/give.

“We hope our legacy is to enhance those things that the general population can take advantage of. We want those opportunities to be there. It’s about quality of life.”

Bob Wharram, Bob and Paige Wharram Fund

A legacy grown in community

Bob and Paige Wharram create a legacy of generosity for the places they love

Bob and Paige Wharram are lifelong Iowans. They were raised and lived a majority of their lives in Buchanan County. But as they looked to move off the family’s Century Farm, the couple decided on Waverly as their new home, drawn to the community by its vibrant opportunities while retaining a small-town feel. Both became immediately involved in the community through participation on local boards, playing in the municipal band, and other service-oriented activities.

Shortly after their move, their son, who lived with special needs, passed away, reinforcing their appreciation for the kindness of the community. During this time, Bob and Paige began conversations about their estate and connected with the Bremer County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, to plan their legacy.

The couple had already decided to take a philanthropic approach to their planning that would allocate their resources toward charitable

endeavors rather than individual inheritances. They are particularly passionate about supporting causes that benefit everyone in the community, such as conservation efforts, libraries, recreation trails, and cultural institutions.

Last year, they also established a donor-advised fund through the Bremer County Community Foundation. “There are tax advantages to it, but beyond that, there’s a chance to start directing funds to the things that are important to us now – the environment, literacy, and the fine arts,” said Bob.

Through their estate planning and donor-advised fund, the Wharrams aim to leave a lasting impact on the community they have grown to love, as well as where they were raised. “We’re childless. It’s a way to extend the legacy,” said Bob. Paige added, “And to honor them in different ways.” Bob replied, “Yes, absolutely, it’s a way to honor our sons.”



2023 Highlights

Connecting donors, nonprofits, and dollars to create transformational change in our communities.



Jump starting nonprofit capacity

In 2023, ten nonprofit organizations in Black Hawk County completed Jumpstart, an immersive yearlong fundraising capacity building program from Network for Good. CFNEIA organized and funded the program with additional funding from The Leighty Fund held with the Foundation. Participating organizations received integrated tools, planning guidance, and one-on-one coaching to build their fundraising capacity, diversify revenue, and sustain and grow programs. Jumpstart helped the nonprofits not only increase donations, but created efficiencies in data management so they can focus on growing capacity to do even more mission work.



Leading and convening: Advancing Equity in the Cedar Valley

Advancing Equity in the Cedar Valley continues to build on the community's response to the 2018 "24/7 Wall Street" publication naming Waterloo-Cedar Falls as the worst place for Black Americans to live. Successes include Black Hawk County Public Health's systems map initiative and the formation of ONE Cedar Valley, both supported by CFNEIA. The movement gained even more momentum in 2023. Led by the above organizations, and with assistance from additional convening partners, community sector groups were identified and are developing solutions to eliminate inequities in the Cedar Valley.



Empowering Women for Good

Women for Good is a CFNEIA membership group of community-minded women creating meaningful change by giving and learning together. In 2023, members granted \$35,000 to nonprofits serving women and girls in Black Hawk County and hosted their first-ever community learning forum focused on reframing philanthropy with guest speaker Abena Sankofa Imhotep.



Celebrating together

Over 200 people joined CFNEIA for our Celebration of Community event. At this gathering of partners from across our region, we awarded \$410,000 in grants supporting nonprofits and projects in our initiative areas.



Applying a needs-based approach to scholarship funds

We recognize that multiple factors affect equity in access to education, especially for non-white, refugee/immigrant, indigenous, disabled, LGBTQ+, and other underserved populations who face systemic barriers throughout society. Scholarships are one of the tools to address this in our region.

Student need has already been applied as part of the CFNEIA scholarship selection process. In an effort to provide increased funding for students facing barriers, CFNEIA has fully implemented a needs-based approach to all newly established scholarship funds. Beginning in 2023, all new funds were required to include criteria centered on financial need as part of donor intent. Scholarships established prior to 2023 will continue to follow original donor intent and criteria.

In addition to this movement toward our values, CFNEIA remains the largest scholarship provider in Iowa outside of colleges and universities. In 2023, CFNEIA recorded its highest ever amount awarded with over \$733,000 in scholarships to 236 students.

Our affiliate connections

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is a regional community foundation focused on local impacts. We do this through our network of affiliate community foundations across the 20 counties we serve. The impact of this model expands out from individual communities, to counties, and to the entire region strengthening all levels of this incredible place we call home. In 2023, our affiliate community foundation partners granted over \$4.7 million to changemaking organizations and, as of December 31, 2023, held over \$62 million in assets, ensuring our mission is here for good for our entire region.

It is our privilege to partner with the over 325 volunteers who serve our affiliate impact committees. In 2023, CFNEIA created an Affiliate Impact Advisory Committee and developed strategies to help us provide more support and resources that deepen our connection with our affiliates. Thank you to our volunteers for your leadership, time, and knowledge of your communities. You are leading local philanthropy. Together we can create an even greater collaborative impact on our region.



Ackley Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,090,837
2023 grants awarded: \$39,012

Benton County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,127,228
2023 grants awarded: \$310,013

Bremer County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$7,898,7924
2023 grants awarded: \$483,712

Buchanan County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$3,768,935
2023 grants awarded: \$344,484

Butler County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$952,231
2023 grants awarded: \$304,232

Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$5,935,903
2023 grants awarded: \$284,734

Chickasaw County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$2,733,954
2023 grants awarded: \$153,350

Elma Area Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$611,716
2023 grants awarded: \$17,070

Emmet County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,061,253
2023 grants awarded: \$152,776

Fayette County Community Foundation

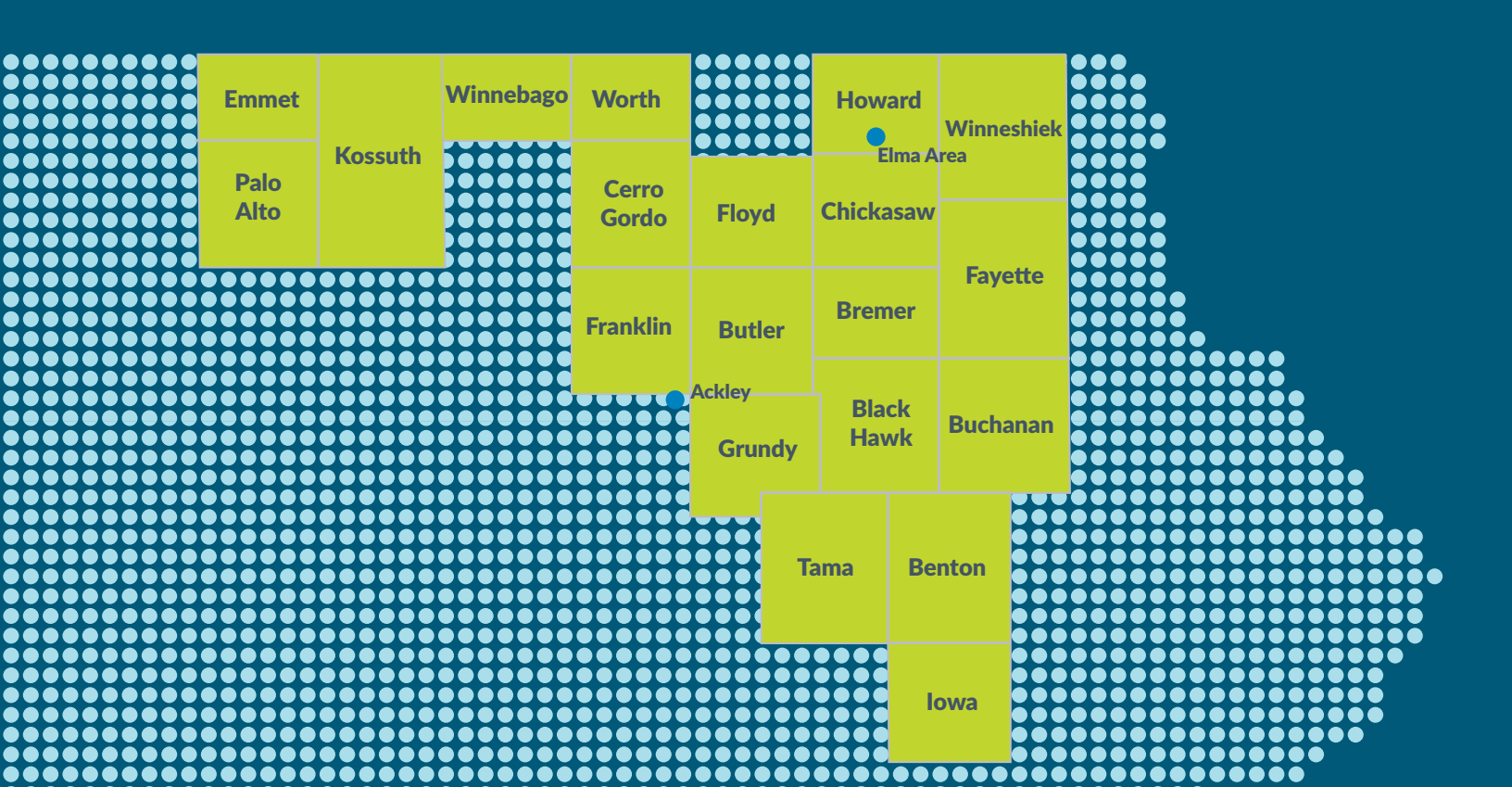
Total net assets: \$2,581,459
2023 grants awarded: \$446,140

Floyd County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$7,210,479
2023 grants awarded: \$248,760

Franklin County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,123,054
2023 grants awarded: \$154,444



Grundy County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$2,027,696
2023 grants awarded: \$193,461

Howard County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,919,345
2023 grants awarded: \$318,710

Iowa County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,266,747
2023 grants awarded: \$160,598

Kossuth County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$7,612,286
2023 grants awarded: \$530,890

Palo Alto County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$858,065
2023 grants awarded: \$9,161

Tama County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$3,441,636
2023 grants awarded: \$164,618

Winnebago County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$1,055,748
2023 grants awarded: \$147,667

Winneshiek County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$7,598,286
2023 grants awarded: \$312,451

Worth County Community Foundation

Total net assets: \$130,359
2023 grants awarded: \$5,226

Local impact. Regional reach.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Row 1: **Kaye Englin**, President & CEO; **ReShonda Young**, Chair, Bank of Jabez; **Susan Sims**, Vice Chair, Community Volunteer; **Michelle Jungers**, Secretary, Jungers Law PLLC

Row 2: **Mike Hulme**, Treasurer, Financial Resource Advisors; **Todd Henningsen**, Past Chair, Gilbert & Cook Private Wealth Management; **Joy Briscoe**, ONE Cedar Valley; **Lauren Finke**, Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley

Row 3: **Matthew Gilbert, Esq.**, MRG & Associates, LLP; **Ashlyn Jungwirth**, Cardinal Construction; **Chawne Paige**, Waterloo Center for the Arts; **Kalola Roby**, Lincoln Savings Bank

Row 4: **Scott Soifer**, Soifer Family McDonald's; **Scott Thomson**, CUSB Bank; **Matt Waller**, VGM Homelink; **Yolanda Williams**, University of Northern Iowa, UNI-CUE

STAFF



Row 1: **Kaye Englin**, President & CEO; **Angie Widner**, Vice President of Community Impact; **Liz Kurtt**, Vice President of Finance & Operations; **Jake Byers**, Vice President of Marketing & Communications

Row 2: **Terry Gaumer**, Affiliate Charitable Impact Director; **Derek Kimball**, Director of Charitable Impact; **Shanda Hansen**, Director of Affiliate Impact; **Sherita Jenkins**, Director of Community Impact

Row 3: **Amy Wiles**, Director of Scholarship Impact; **Dotti Thompson**, Grant & Scholarship Manager; **Shannon Melcher**, Manager of Data Services & Donor Support; **Stephanie Huff**, Donor Relations Assistant

Row 4: **Nicole Stuart**, Finance Manager; **Theresa Stessman**, Accounting Associate; **Jenna Hoffman**, Marketing & Communications Manager

Grant impact

\$9,014,717

awarded in grants and scholarships

1,602

number of grants and scholarships awarded



50.37%

\$4,541,109 awarded from unrestricted (discretionary) funds

16.71%

\$1,506,473 awarded from advised funds

14.67%

\$1,322,598 awarded from nonprofit funds

10.68%

\$962,373 awarded from special project and other funds

7.57%

\$682,164* awarded from scholarship funds

*Awarded net of canceled scholarships.

Grants Awarded

by program focus area

Arts & Culture
\$1,047,922 | 11.62%

Community Betterment
\$2,374,583 | 26.34%

Education & Youth Development
\$2,730,588 | 30.29%

Environment & Animal Welfare
\$533,829 | 5.92%

Health
\$716,870 | 7.95%

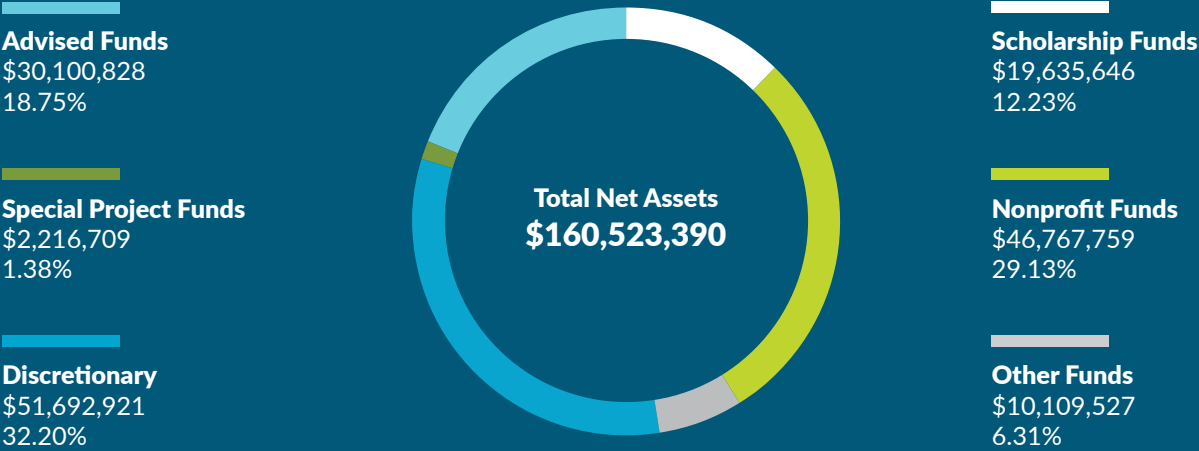
Human Service
\$1,610,925 | 17.88%



Financial overview

As of December 31, 2023 (unaudited)

Total Net Assets by Fund Type



Total Net Assets by Year

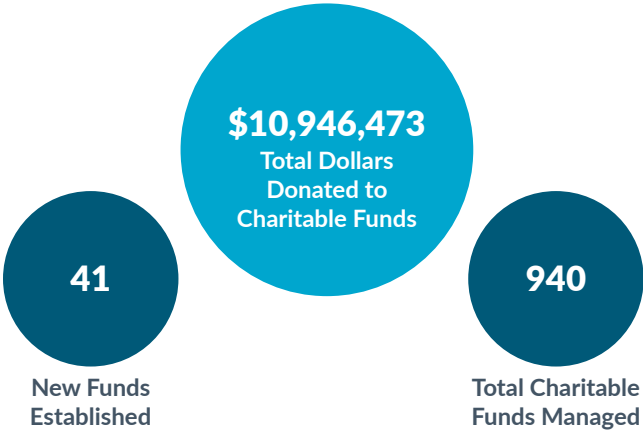
2023	\$160,523,390
2022	\$149,549,886
2021	\$161,661,463

Total Assets Net of Liabilities

Endowed	\$146,459,243
Artwork/Insurance Cash Values	\$7,618,291
Expendable	\$5,550,200
Other Non-Cash Assets	\$1,711,105
Operations	\$1,532,447

Total Assets	\$162,871,286
Total Liabilities	(\$2,347,896)
Total Net Assets	\$160,523,390

Contributions and Funds in 2023



Visit cfneia.org to view a copy of CFNEIA's 990 Return, or call Liz Kurtz, Vice President of Finance and Operations at 319-243-1360 for audited financial statements, investment information, or our IRS exemption letter.

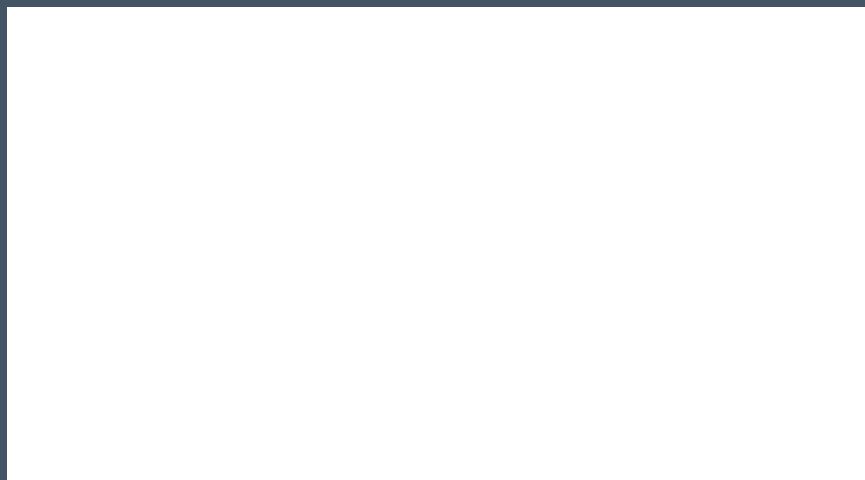


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and find a downloadable copy of our
impact report at cfneia.org/impact2023.

cfneia.org

319-287-9106



CFNS
ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa has been confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations for services and operations that have been established by the Council on Foundations to guide sound policies, accountable practices, and ethical and operational integrity that strengthen the effectiveness of community philanthropy.