



April 21, 2025

Greetings St. Johns !

By way of introduction, this is Ed Jackson. I am the chairperson of the St. Johns Area Community Fund (SJACF).

This letter will cover three topics. First, a brief Fantasy Forest update. Second, you will learn about SJACF's goals for 2025 and how you can help. Lastly, you will learn about a big upcoming endowment drive called the "35 Hours of Giving".

Fantasy Forest, FF 2.0 update

SJACF collected \$150,000 in grant funds. In addition, we raised \$453,000 from local donors, including major contributions from our community partners, St. Johns Rotary (\$25,000) and St. Johns Kiwanis (\$25,000). Thank you to every donor for their generosity in support of this amazing community project. Groundbreaking for Phase 1 took place last week.

SJACF 2025 Goals

SJACF prides itself on being a major supporter of St. Johns area nonprofits and community projects such as the construction of new barrier free restrooms at the Feldpausch ball fields and funding assistance for the upgrades to our downtown library.

Our primary goal is to increase the amount of money SJACF has available to provide grants. To accomplish this goal, it is critical that we increase our endowment because this provides SJACF available grant money in perpetuity. The 2025 goal is to raise \$250,000 in new endowment funds. Reaching our goal will bring our annual endowment distributions to \$40,000 every year. All that money is used only for our St. Johns Community. The remarkable thing about the endowment fund is that it is the gift that keeps on giving! It's our growing community legacy.

Kicking off our Endowment Drive – "35 Hours of Giving"

In conjunction with Capital Region Community Foundation, SJACF is participating in "35 Hours of Giving" promoting endowment gifts. The 35-hour online campaign begins at 7 am on May 7 and ends at 6 pm on May 8 (35hours.ourcommunity.org). Mailed endowment donations postmarked between April 23rd and May 8th sent to SJACF, PO Box 33, St. Johns, MI 48879 will be applied to the "35 hours". Participating organizations (SJACF for one) will receive a portion of available matching funds based on the share of the total raised for all in the "35 Hours".

Questions about IRA contributions or setting up a fund in your own name? Call 989-224-7823, or email info@sjacf.com.

Thank you for everything you have done to support SJACF and St. Johns. We are constantly impressed with the generosity and love that is shown for our great community. Let's keep it up!

Ed Jackson

Directors

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