



SJACF

PO Box 33
St. Johns, MI 48879
SJACF.org

YOUR COMMUNITY FUND AT WORK

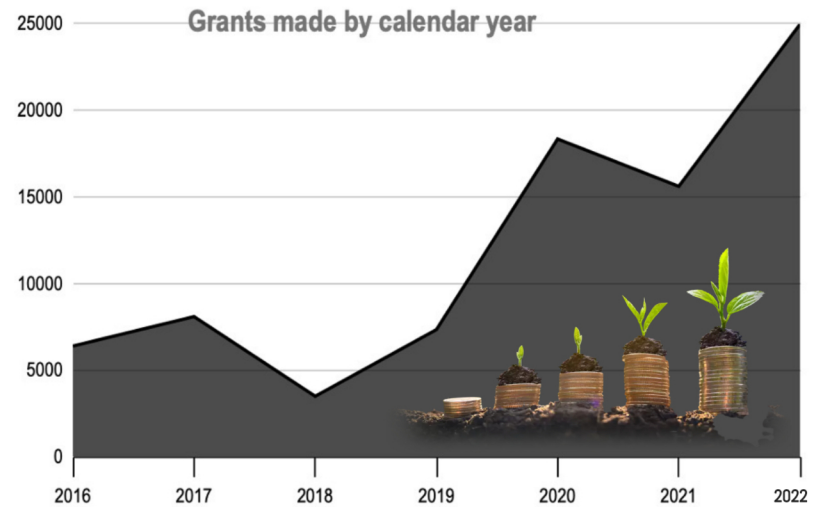
Planting the seed for a better tomorrow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING
SPRING 2023

Check Out Our Grant Growth!

Thank you for being a part of the St. Johns Area Community Fund. We are proud to have granted over \$115,537 to our community to date.

Action is needed! We're not done yet! There will always be more to do; more possibilities to support others in their efforts to improve our hometown. Make any new gifts, large or small, Venmo us at @donatesjacf, visit us at SJACF.org, or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/sjacf.



Horses Provide a Unique Community Service

We're pleased to announce Equine Assisted Wellness of Mid-Michigan as a new grantee. Their team of professionals use horses to provide supportive mental health services and thereby fulfill their mission to improve the overall health of our community.

Their uniquely designed programs address individual needs for young and old around such things as anxiety, burnout, PTSD and personal growth. The grant of \$500 will help them launch new programs. Learn more about this local non-profit at EquineAWMidMichigan.com.



What's New in the Land of Fantasy Forest



Initial Concept Drawing 2022

Friends For Fantasy Forest (FFFF) was recently established to re-create the existing Fantasy Forest playground at the City Park. The FFFF includes the St. Johns Parks and Recreation Dept., SJACF, and members of Kiwanis, and Rotary Club and is tasked with planning and fundraising to make the project a reality.

Project and fundraising efforts are approved in concept by the City of St. Johns. Initial grant applications have been made to Consumers Energy Foundation and Capital Region Community Foundation, which may generate \$100,000. SJACF has committed \$75,000 to the project which is expected to cost \$800,000. Fundraising efforts will begin later this year for the balance needed. The preliminary timetable for kids to be in the universally accessible "New Fantasy Forest" is summer of 2025. Visit www.sjacf.org for concept videos.

Meet our Newest Board Members!

Denise Palmer

Denise works as a Data Specialist at Clinton County RESA and she has lived in St. Johns with her husband Mark for the last 23 years. She has two daughters, Gracie, 22 and Jada, 20. Gracie is a law student at the University of Toledo and Jada is studying Biomedical Science at Grand Valley State University.

In Denise's spare time she leads the 'Compassion in Action' (food backpack program), loves to hike the national parks, ride bikes, and take vacations with family and friends. She also enjoys visiting schools and nursing homes with their therapy dog, Kozmo. Denise shares, "I am honored to be on the board of the St. Johns Area Community Fund. I look forward to working with the rest of the board to continue the great work that has been done to improve and promote the community with valuable programs and initiatives."

Meredith Goodman

Meredith began her career at MAHLE 17 years ago. For the past five years, she was responsible for leading the strategic establishment of Human Resources/employment related policies, procedures, and programs within North America, HR readiness in Information Security, and employment compliance within the United States. Meredith is now MAHLE's North American Head of Non-Monetary Benefits. She is responsible for leading her team in benefit and retirement administration and strategy, wellness, and recognition programs.

Meredith and her husband Joe have lived in St. Johns since 2006. Their free time is spent at the field or court, cheering on their son, Jacob, and his fellow Red Wings! She also enjoys traveling, camping, and biking with friends and family. Meredith looks forward to serving the community through the SJACF.

Amy Barrett

Amy is a 2000 SJHS grad and studied Secondary Education, with a major in Business Administration and Management at CMU, along with vocational certification in marketing, sales and service. She taught business and PE. at Charlotte High School, advised their marketing club and ran a school-based enterprise called The Oriole Nest. She also worked in the Laingsburg schools where she started the business program and school store. Coming full-circle, Amy now works at SJHS and teaches Business Management, Digital Design, Careers and Computer Applications, Microsoft Academy and Yearbook.

Amy and her husband Bean, also a teacher at SJHS, have two daughters, Elli and Hadley. Amy enjoys camping, hunting, running and coaching her daughter's basketball team. She is excited to serve on the SJACF board and promote the needs of community citizens.

Support for Youth Sports

Local student sports are a very important and vibrant part of our community and the SJACF is proud to support this area of news that keeps so many of us connected. The SJ Sports Page helps us stay informed and current with these youth sports programs.

Visit SJSportsPage.com to stay in-the-know.



Photo #FanSubmitted by Carla Wardin for the SJ Sports Page.