



ALEXANDRIA AREA  
Community  
Foundation

THE POWER OF  
COMMUNITY

Engaging People. Connecting Resources. Building Community.

# Why A Community Foundation Is Important To Your Community...

The role of the Alexandria Area Community Foundation (AACF) is to help people and organizations make a difference. The Foundation fulfills its role through the following:

- Facilitating charitable giving
- Initiating responses to targeted needs
- Building permanent funds for the support of charities in our community and beyond

For donors, the AACF serves as a vital link between the community and those who want to help it. The AACF functions as a vehicle assisting donors with varied interests and helping them achieve their philanthropic goals.

None of the work we do would be possible without the support of our donors, leaders, innovators, and volunteers. This is the true power of community and we thank you for being part of your community foundation!

## Your Community Foundation At A Glance



### AACF Board of Directors and Staff:

*First Row (left to right):* Jack Driscoll (Chair), Kathy Fischer (Vice Chair), Linda Akenson (Secretary), Kirsten Nelson (Treasurer)

*Second Row (left to right):* Judy Blaseg, Mike Diebold, Mary Gorghuber, Pat Hedlund

*Third Row (left to right):* Nick Heydt, Lynn Jenc, Sheryle Steinbring, Catherine Stine

*Fourth Row:* A.J. Koewler (Executive Director)



### FINANCIALS as of June 30, 2023





3

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS



55

TOTAL FUNDS



TOTAL ASSETS

\$6.3M



\$9.1M

GRANTS SINCE FOUNDING





# 2023 Ruth McDonald Award In Philanthropy Recipients

The Ruth McDonald Award in Philanthropy is presented to individuals or businesses who represent community and philanthropy. This year, the award was presented to Mark & Carmon Watkins and Vicki Bump at our Annual Celebration of Philanthropy Social on Monday, September 25th. To view their award videos, visit [www.communitygiving.org/legacy-stories](http://www.communitygiving.org/legacy-stories).



**Vicki Bump**

Vicki Bump has become known as a pillar of the Alexandria area, giving so much of her time and talent to the Outreach Food Shelf. After serving as Executive Director for 15 years, Vicki retired in 2021. However, you can still find her volunteering and serving on the Outreach Food Shelf board of directors. Vicki’s passion and hard work has touched so many lives and continues through everything she does for our community.



**Mark & Carmon Watkins**

Mark and Carmon Watkins exemplify leadership and generosity in all that they do for the Alexandria area. They started Geneva Capital, LLC in 2000, which is a nationwide equipment finance company that currently employs over 80 people. Through their business and personally, Mark & Carmon have supported numerous causes and organizations in our community.

## Thank You To Our Event Sponsors!

We would like to express our utmost gratitude to these businesses, organizations and individuals who supported the AACF as a sponsor this event season.



- Alexandria Technical & Community College
- Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation
- Alomere Health
- American National Bank of MN
- Ameriprise Financial
- Bell Bank
- Bremer Bank
- CLA-CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Mike Diebold and Alicia Hanrahan
- Jack & Kirsten Driscoll
- Elden’s Fresh Foods
- First Western Bank & Trust
- Kathy Fischer & Kurt Hansberry
- Friends of Mark & Carmon Watkins
- Heartland Orthopedic Specialists
- Patrice Hedlund & Ennis Arntson
- Henry’s Foods, Inc.
- Paula Jackson RE/MAX Results
- Joe Riley Construction, Inc.
- A.J. & Nick Koewler
- Law Offices of Thornton, Dolan, Bowen, Klecker & Burkhammer, P.A.
- Lind Family Funeral & Cremation Services
- Nyberg Surveying, Inc.
- Pemberton Law Firm
- Realty Group - Shawn Reilly
- Richard & Rose Shorma
- Snyder Thornburg Wealth Management
- Frank Starke
- Catherine Stine
- Mike & Andrea Tripp
- Viking Bank
- WELL & Company

## Legacy Society



**This is Ruth.**

Ruth was a public health nurse for over 40 years. She moved to Alexandria and fell in love with the community and people in it. Ruth talked to her attorney and made a plan to establish an endowed fund with the AACF to support health programming and families living in poverty. Her legacy will live on for years to come.

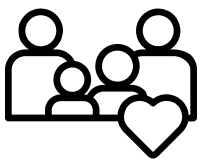
**How can we help you be like Ruth?**

**Join Us in Creating Your Own Legacy!**

- Make strategic investments to causes you care about most
- Maximize the tax advantages of your giving
- Leave a local charitable legacy



# Types Of Funds You Can Open With The AACF



## Donor Advised Funds

Most popular type of fund. Often thought of as a “charitable checking account”. Donor advised funds allow individuals & families to directly impact their favorite non-profits & programs by making gifts from their fund.



## Corporate Advised Funds

Established by companies to be used as a tool to fulfill their corporate giving goals. Reduces overhead on accounting and tax reporting on their charitable giving as it streamlines the process.



## Field of Interest Funds

Allows donors to create a fund for a specified broad purpose such as youth, education, animals, etc. Donors with particular issues of concern or passion may focus their giving by setting up this type of fund.



## Agency Funds

Established by nonprofit organizations as an investment strategy for growth. We currently hold agency funds for a variety of organizations including schools, churches, and a wide range of other nonprofit agencies.



## Scholarship Funds

Allows the donor to create a fund to assist area students in continuing their education. Donors can choose to set up a fund to benefit students from a particular high school or post-secondary institution.

## Establishing Your Own Charitable Fund

Your Alexandria Area Community Foundation is here to serve as your charitable giving resource. Our staff can answer any questions you may have about setting up your own fund, estate planning, complex charitable gifts and more. Email [akoewler@communitygiving.org](mailto:akoewler@communitygiving.org) or call (320) 257-9736 for more information.

\*Gifts to establish a fund may be eligible for a tax deduction in the year of the gift. \*

## What To Give

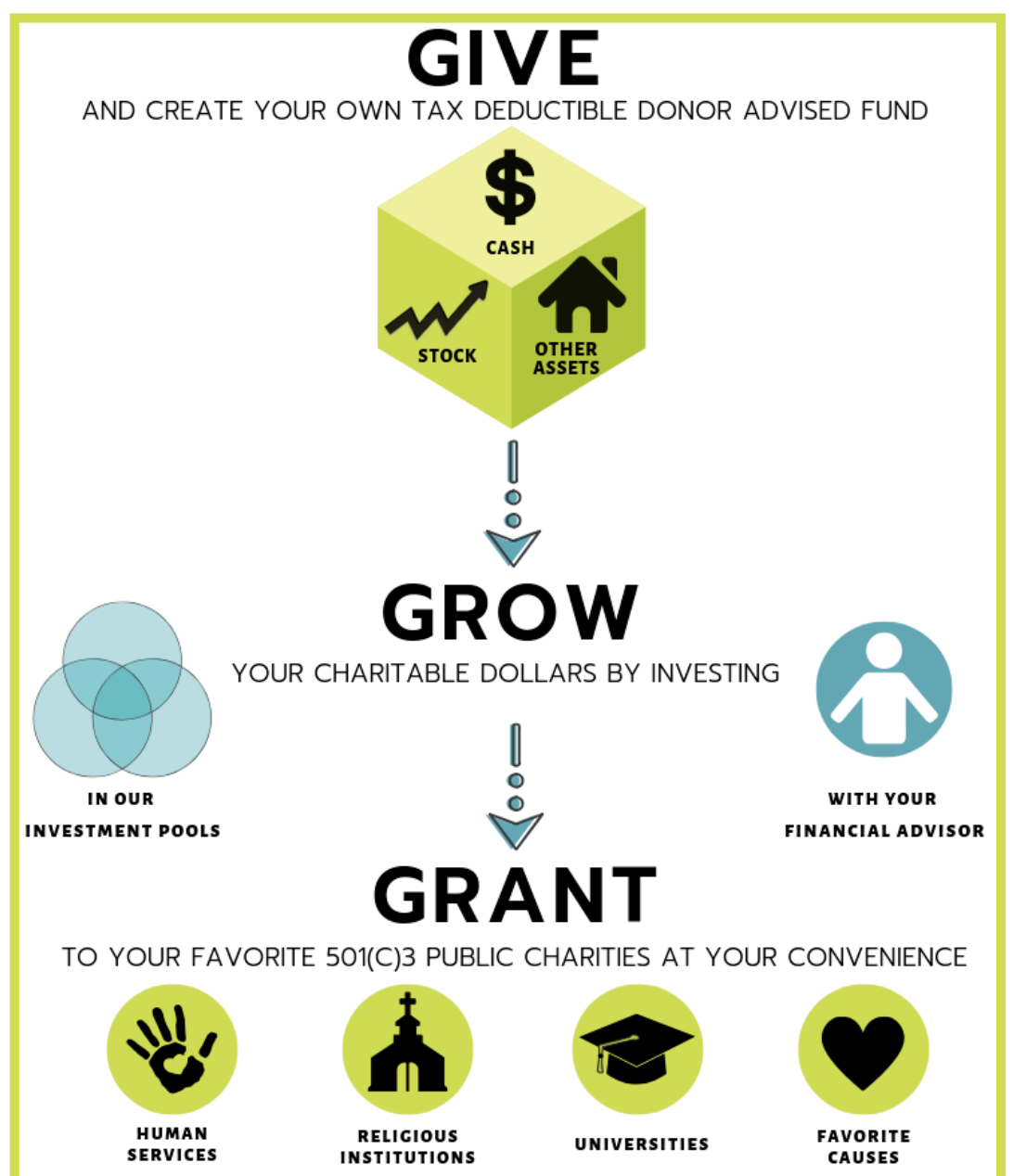
When you think about making a monetary gift to your favorite non-profits, most people’s first thought would be cash.

But did you know this is not the only option? In fact there are many different ways to support the causes that you care about most!

Consider making a gift of....

**Stocks & Bonds**  
**Real Estate**  
**Retirement Assets**  
**Insurance**  
**Mineral Interests**  
**and more!**

Visit [plannedgiving.communitygiving.org](http://plannedgiving.communitygiving.org) to learn how and why these types of gifts might work for you!



## How You Can Be Involved

Like us on Facebook and share our happenings with your network.  
@AlexandriaAreaCommunityFoundation



Make a gift to the "Your Community. Your Foundation" Campaign to support our work.

Volunteer on a committee or our board. Email [aacf@communitygiving.org](mailto:aacf@communitygiving.org) for more information.



# Investing Back Into Our Community

The Alexandria Area Community Foundation (AACF) and its donors help change lives through a variety of grants to numerous nonprofit organizations. Over \$1.7 million was distributed to non-profits and programs this past year from donors just like you!

**Safe Families for Children** was awarded **\$5,000** to expand their support to youth aging out of foster care, teen parents, youth without family and families with teens who are experiencing a crisis.



**Alexandria Education Foundation** was awarded **\$10,000** to support teachers to purchase necessary items for their classrooms through the Wayne Elton Adopt a Classroom program.



**Big Ole Bike Club** was awarded **\$15,000** to support Cycling without Age Alexandria with the purchase of a Triobike to engage older individuals and those with limited mobility in the hobby of cycling.



**Outreach Food Shelf** was awarded **\$25,000** to support the purchasing of a mobile pantry to expand their reach and provide food in the more remote areas of our community.



**Kalon Prep Academy** was awarded **\$3,000** to provide food support to students through free & reduced breakfast and lunch and the onsite food shelf.



**Carlos Elementary School** was awarded **\$10,000** to support the establishment of Adventure Acres, an outdoor education space.



**Central Minnesota Elder Network** was awarded **\$5,000** for continued support of their programs which work to alleviate social isolation and loneliness.

In 2023, the AACF was able to invest \$73,000 in projects through two annual competitive grant rounds that focus on bringing lasting positive change to the Alexandria area.

**Learn more about the grant rounds by visiting [www.alexandriaareacommunityfoundation.org](http://www.alexandriaareacommunityfoundation.org)**



As your local philanthropic resource, I am here to support your charitable giving goals. Please reach out to me to learn more about the foundation and how we can work together to make an impact on our community!

Gratefully,  
A.J. Koewler  
AACF Executive Director



ALEXANDRIA AREA  
**Community  
Foundation**

POWERED BY: **COMMUNITY  
GIVING.ORG**

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[www.communitygiving.org/alexandria](http://www.communitygiving.org/alexandria)