



**ROTARY**  
**CHARITIES**

*Resources for change.*

Contact: Miriam Owsley  
Strategic Communications Manager  
Rotary Charities of Traverse City  
[mowsley@rotarycharities.org](mailto:mowsley@rotarycharities.org)  
rotarycharities.org

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS ENABLE ADAPTIVE RESPONSES TO CHANGING NEEDS**

*Rotary Charities of Traverse City announces publication of 20-21 Annual Report*

[Traverse City, MI, October 13, 2021] Rotary Charities of Traverse City is pleased to announce that our 2020-2021 Annual Report, *Strengthened by Trust*, has been published and is available for download [on our website](#).

This year marked a pivotal moment for Rotary Charities as the organization experienced healthy and intentional growth. In June 2021, Becky Ewing retired as Executive Director after 14 total years of service to the organization. After a national search, Sakura Takano was selected by a unanimous vote of the board to succeed her as CEO. The organization has also welcomed three new staff members since January 2021.

This summer, the board and staff engaged in a strategic planning process that helped to refine our mission and vision, confirm our commitment to an ever-improving organizational culture, and reflect upon our core values of Respect, Stewardship, Learning, Impact, and Relationships. Evolving from a traditional role of a grant administrator, we work in partnership with our grantees and local leaders to facilitate positive community change.

**Our Mission:** Working in partnership with changemakers, Rotary Charities provides funding, learning and connections to address our region's complex problems and create community assets for all.

**Our Vision:** We envision communities that are adaptive and thriving for everyone.

The goals of the strategic plan will propel the organization forward as we continue to leverage all forms of our capital – financial, knowledge, connections, and our reputation – to contribute to the greatest possible impact for all.

*Strengthened by Trust* highlights the work of our grantees, local changemakers, and community leaders. We share stories of resilient responses to crisis, partnerships that have deepened as a result of intentional engagement, and vital assets built based on robust community engagement and resident voice.

This year, Rotary Charities awarded [61 grants](#), totaling \$1,184,213 to 51 non-profit organizations and local municipalities in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. We maintained a \$1.75 million impact investing portfolio, increasing capacity for nonprofit lending in Northern Michigan.

Our Assets for Thriving Communities grants support initiatives that develop, strengthen, or build community assets that are available to all. This year, \$534,750 was awarded to 13 grantees working to create community

assets that support arts and culture, health and wellbeing, education, and affordable housing in Northern Michigan.

Our Systems Change Accelerator grants support collaborative initiatives that target upstream causes of complex community problems. This year, \$325,000 was awarded to three initiatives addressing issues of affordable housing, youth homelessness, and organic waste diversion.

Our Seed grants are small investments that often lead to outsized impact, as grantees engage in the types of activities that provide clarity and a sense of direction for transformational projects. This year, \$195,000 was awarded to 19 grantees.

We continued to serve communities and their leaders as they adapt, shifting our focus from crisis support to recovery and resilience. We offered support to nonprofits beyond cutting a check, providing 136 hours of specialized consultation at no cost, investing \$109,120 in nonprofit capacity building services, and awarding \$21,218 from our Learning Fund. We helped nonprofit and community leaders build their skills with programs like the Leadership Learning Lab and Leadership Coaching Cohort. In light of the pandemic, Rotary Charities shifted the focus of learning offerings to helping organizations work better together, hosting programs focusing on Collaboration, Systems Practice, Crisis Management, and Adaptive Leadership.

More stories of our grantees' work and the impact of our investments can be found in our [Annual Report](#) and on [our website](#).

#### About Rotary Charities:

Following the 1976 discovery of oil and natural gas reserves on property owned by the Traverse City Rotary Club, Rotary Charities of Traverse City was established to providing funding, connections and learning opportunities to changemakers in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. Since that time, more than \$63 million in grants have been awarded. Today, Rotary Charities is known for embracing innovation in service of tackling complex problems and creating community accessible assets for all, in support of its vision of communities that are adaptive and thriving for everyone. In recent years, Rotary Charities has evolved from a traditional grantmaking organization to a regional changemaking organization. This requires innovative grantmaking, impact investing, and capacity building strategies, as well as effective internal structures to support the work. To learn more visit [rotarycharities.org](http://rotarycharities.org)

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