

# A Year to Remember

## A Year to Lead



Omaha Community Foundation

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2020 RESULTS

### CARES Act Funding

For many nonprofits, the CARES Act provided a much-needed boost of funding that sustained them through 2020. This was especially true for the arts and culture sector.

Because getting this funding into our community as quickly and efficiently as possible was so crucial, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners turned to the Omaha Community Foundation to manage this important project.

"I'm proud to say we have an outstanding, well-earned reputation for our ability to swiftly and securely distribute funds to nonprofits," Omaha Community Foundation President and CEO Donna Kush said. "We were honored to partner with Douglas County to give our community's nonprofits a lifeline during this challenging time."



**\$28 million** deployed through **323 grants to area nonprofits**

CARES Act funding helped to save the Great Plains Black History Museum from closing. The funding enabled the nonprofit to set up safety measures to reopen under new public health guidelines. And, the museum was able to purchase a new computer, which equipped them with the tools to conduct online presentations and tours. This new worldwide audience of students, businesses, and organizations allowed them to reach 1,000 more people in 2020 versus the previous year.

Nebraska Writers Collective also implemented virtual programming on a larger scale in 2020, including a new avenue for training their teaching artists, thanks to the CARES Act grant they received. The organization pays their contracted teachers to attend the virtual training. This provides much-needed employment for writers, and "it serves us because we get higher quality teachers from it," Executive Director Matt Mason said.

The funding has also allowed the organization to provide mental health support services for their staff, who have been working hard to meet needs and personally feeling the mental and emotional toll of the pandemic, which has been echoed nearly everywhere in our community.

"I think it's a miracle that none of the local arts organizations have closed their doors yet," said Amplify Arts Executive Director Andy Saladino.

CARES Act funding allowed Amplify Arts to roll over some of their 2020 budget into 2021, providing a bit of longer-term protection for the organization.



# A Year to Differentiate

## Other Noteworthy Results

Adversity can be a chance to become stronger. This year provided many opportunities where we bolstered our leadership position in the community:

## Landscape Listening Report

The second edition of The Landscape Listening Report was published in 2020. We listened to more than 1,700 local residents through in-person and online interviews, which we conducted in 2019. Our team identified key themes from these conversations and paired the core ideas with relevant data, all with the goal of better understanding how friends, family, and neighbors are experiencing life in our region. The Landscape Listening Report identifies some of the most urgent needs in our community, many of which were magnified during the pandemic.

## Fund for Omaha

As the Omaha Community Foundation's largest grant program, the purpose of the Fund shifted this year to exclusively support nonprofit organizations working to increase opportunity and equity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. In October, 23 local nonprofits were awarded a total of \$459,676.



## Omaha Gives

After eight years, \$58 million raised, and thousands of community members coming together to celebrate hundreds of local nonprofits, we ended Omaha Gives and transitioned the function of community online giving and volunteering to SHARE Omaha. The day of giving went out on a high note: a record 23,375 individuals gave a total of 65,160 donations (another record), totaling \$8.5 million raised in 2020. This community-wide generosity was paramount during an urgent time of need for our nonprofits.

## Corner Conversations

We continued our donor education and engagement series over Zoom this year, leading three sessions with dozens of fundholders on different ways our community was affected by COVID-19. Look for more opportunities like this to connect with us in 2021.



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# A Year to Navigate

## COVID-19 Response Fund

In the middle of March, our community drastically changed in a matter of days.

The pandemic effects were immediate at nonprofits serving vulnerable populations as demand skyrocketed. The Omaha Community Foundation swiftly organized the COVID-19 Response Fund—and donors from across the community quickly and generously responded.

“The funding helped us to adjust very quickly, and we have continued to adapt throughout the year,” said Adrielle Griffin, Chief Marketing and Development Officer of Completely KIDS.

The funds Completely KIDS received enabled the organization to purchase technology and school supplies to support virtual afterschool programming, to implement new public health protocols, and to expand mental health services for youth.

Families in Action Omaha focused their funding on emergency food services and mental wellness support for their clients, who are primarily Latina women and their families.

“Our clients were the first ones to lose hours at work and the first to get sick, yet they are resilient and strong. Holding on to a sense of community is important and protective to families,” said Kaela Volkmer, Development Director of Families in Action Omaha.

Since the pandemic began, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative (NECC) responded very quickly to urgent needs of small, in-home child care owners who did not have access to basic resources they needed to stay open during the pandemic. With the additional funding from the COVID-19 Response Fund, NECC provided more of these supplies—including thermometers, masks, gloves, and bleach.

“I’ve never had so many touching notes as when we delivered thermometers to small providers!” said NECC President & CEO Shannon Cotsoradis.

Omaha Community Foundation fundholders, through their extraordinary generosity, made all of this and more possible. As everyone transitions into 2021 and greater hope of life beyond the pandemic, this strong foundation of support will be an important way our community rebuilds.



**\$1.5 million raised** through the COVID-19 Response Fund



# A Year to Appreciate

## Operational Results

Omaha Community Foundation fundholders showed up for our community in a big way in 2020, demonstrating the knowledge and nimbleness of our collective efforts. In a time when people lost so much, you stepped in and provided needed assistance. Below are some of the results of these generous actions and the guiding principles that drive them.

## Building capacity of nonprofits to fulfill their missions.



**780 nonprofits** engaged in OCF programs



**76% of nonprofits** indicated that OCF helped them build capacity

“No one will forget this year. We’ve experienced devastating loss, but we’ve also seen tremendous generosity. You gave 50% more than the previous year, among many other highlights. Thank you for your remarkable leadership during a very challenging time.”

- DONNA KUSH, *President and CEO*

## Engaging donors to optimize their giving.



**\$270 million in gifts** to OCF accounts



**316 referring advisors**



**23,375 donors gave \$8.5 million to 1,010 nonprofits** during Omaha Gives



**\$34,000 granted to 4 nonprofits** through the Omaha Venture Group



**84% staff satisfaction** on Mindset Culture Health Survey



**10 virtual ‘Equi-Teas’** hosted by the Staff Equity Committee, bringing together staff to learn and discuss racial equity

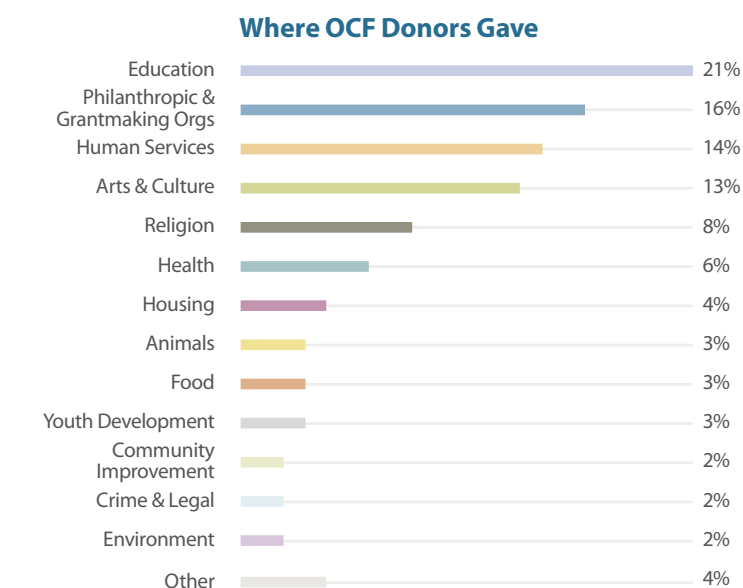
Investing in the community to create a thriving environment for all.



**1,546 fundholders made 18,071 grants to 3,197 nonprofits**



**\$205 million** in grants to nonprofits



Amplifying the voices of residents through a network of knowledge.



**\$1.5 million granted** to 51 nonprofits since March 13, 2020, through the COVID-19 Response Fund



**\$28 million in CARES Act funding awarded through 323 grants** in collaboration with Douglas County



**\$675,277 granted to 65 nonprofits through 5 resident-led grantmaking programs**

- African American Unity Fund \$200,000 to 13 organizations
- Futuro Latino Fund \$150,000 to 10 organizations
- Equality Fund for LGBTQIA+ \$200,000 to 10 organizations
- Omaha Neighborhood Grants Program \$75,277 to 24 organizations
- Refugee Community Grant Fund \$50,000 to 8 organizations



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