Community Foundation of Johnson County

2026 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

ROOTED HERE. GROWING TOGETHER.











BY THE NUMBERS

FY26: JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

Total Assets
$83,268,721

FY26 Total Donations
$7,300,678

FY26 Individual Donors
860

Number of Funds
312

Total Grants Awarded Since Inception
$40,430,375

Total Grants Awarded in FY26
$6,402,019

FY26 # of Organizations Who Received Grants
281

# of Grants Awarded in FY26
861

Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, the Community Foundation of Johnson County began with a simple but powerful idea: when people who care about a community come together, generosity can become something lasting.

As we reflect on this anniversary year, we are struck by how deeply the CFJC has become rooted in Johnson County—and how much those roots have allowed us to grow.

What began as a vision has become a community institution connecting donors with causes they care about, investing in nonprofits, developing community leaders, and bringing people together around both opportunities and challenges. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: this work belongs to the community. You'll see that reflected throughout this annual report.

You'll see growing impact in a record year of grantmaking, including the largest grant in the CFJC's history, significant investments through our Community Impact and Capacity Building Grants, scholarships for local students, and community funds responding to needs close to home.

You'll see growing generosity in the stories of donors who have chosen to make a difference in deeply personal ways—and in the launch of the Heart of Johnson County Legacy Society, which invites all of us to think about the community we want to leave for future generations.

And you'll see what it means to be growing together. Through leadership programs, nonprofit resources, and community conversations, the CFJC continues to create spaces where people can listen, learn, connect, and find common ground. Whether we're talking about food access, housing, nonprofit sustainability, or emerging community needs, we know the strongest solutions begin with listening to those closest to the work.

This year has also reminded us that none of this happens without generous people. Our donors and fundholders. Our nonprofit partners. Our board, staff, interns, volunteers, and community leaders. The people who show up, ask questions, share ideas, give generously, and believe in what is possible.

Celebrating 25 years is an opportunity to honor where we've been, but it's also an invitation to imagine where we can go next. Our roots give us strength. Our growth gives us opportunity. And our partnerships give us tremendous confidence in the future.

Thank you for being part of the first 25 years of the CFJC. We can't wait to see what we grow together next.



With gratitude,

Shelly Maharry
President & CEO

Dan Wegman
Board Chair



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OUR ROOTS



Giving Begins Close to Home

Local philanthropy is powerful because it reflects the unique needs, priorities, and character of the communities it serves. Across Johnson County, the CFJC helps turn local generosity into meaningful investments that make a difference close to home.

This year, through the Coralville Community Fund, $28,500 charitable dollars supported 23 projects directly benefiting Coralville residents—from food access and housing stability to arts, recreation, and community programming. The Swisher Community Fund has renewed local grantmaking with $1,790 granted this year to support two organizations providing therapeutic programs and recreational activities for Swisher residents.

Other funds address needs that reach across Johnson County. This year, the Coldren Fund for Seniors supported five local programs and projects benefiting adults age 65 and older with limited incomes at a total of $17,444, while the John & Mary Jo Langhorne Leadership Development Grants carried forward the Langhornes' legacy by investing $14,300 in leadership development for people of all ages through five organizations.

Through 5224GOOD, community members take philanthropy into their own hands—learning about local issues, pooling their gifts, and collectively deciding where funds can make an impact. During the year, 5224GOOD members awarded $67,410 to seven organizations supporting immigrants and refugees throughout Johnson County.

Together, these funds show that philanthropy doesn't have to start big. It can start with a neighborhood, a shared priority, or a group of people who simply want to make the place they call home stronger.

Building a Legacy for Johnson County

In 2025, the Community Foundation of Johnson County introduced the Heart of Johnson County Legacy Society, celebrating individuals and families who are investing in our community's future through planned giving. By including the CFJC, or a fund at the CFJC, in their will or estate plan, donors can create a lasting legacy that supports the causes they care about for generations to come.

Membership in the Legacy Society represents a commitment to ensuring the causes, organizations, and community priorities that matter most today continue to make a difference well into the future. Today, the Society includes 27 members who have made an enduring commitment to the future of Johnson County.

These future-focused gifts create a lasting impact by strengthening the resources available to address tomorrow's needs and opportunities. The Heart of Johnson County honors those who believe in the power of philanthropy and are helping shape a stronger, more vibrant Johnson County for years to come.



WE MAKE GIVING EASY

The Community Foundation of Johnson County accepts a wide variety of assets to assist you with your charitable giving. You can give to one of our existing funds or start a fund of your own.

- **CASH**
- **SECURITIES**
- **GRAIN**
- **REAL ESTATE**
- **PERSONAL PROPERTY**
- **IRA ROLLOVER**
- **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**
- **LIFE INSURANCE**
- **BUSINESS INTERESTS**
- **RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS**

What Inspires You to Invest in Our Community?

Every donor has a reason for giving—a cause that matters, a community they love, a memory they want to honor, or a hope for what comes next. At the Community Foundation of Johnson County, those individual motivations come together to create something larger: a culture of generosity that strengthens our community today and for generations to come.

TOM ROCKLIN & BARBARA MCFADDEN: Giving with Purpose

Tom Rocklin and Barbara McFadden have made philanthropy an intentional part of their connection to the community. Through their donor-advised fund at the CFJC, they have the flexibility to support organizations and causes that are meaningful to them while relying on the Foundation to help simplify and steward their charitable giving.

"We love Johnson County, and we believe strongly in investing in the people and organizations that make this community such a special place to live. Investing through the Community Foundation of Johnson County allows us to keep our philanthropy close to home, working with people we know and trust, and to direct our giving where it can make a meaningful difference," said Barbara McFadden.

Their approach illustrates one of the strengths of donor-advised philanthropy: the ability to remain engaged, respond to changing needs, and make thoughtful decisions about where generosity can make a difference.

THE MACHLAB FAMILY: Building a Legacy of Giving

For the Machlab family, philanthropy is rooted in a long-standing commitment to community. Over the years, the family has worked with the CFJC to establish charitable funds that reflect both shared family values and the individual interests of the next generation.

Together, these family and individual funds provide meaningful ways to support organizations and causes that matter to them, while creating a thoughtful approach to giving that can evolve over time. The Machlab Family Endowment for the United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties is one example of that commitment, providing lasting support for an organization with deep connections to the community.

"This community has given our family so much over the years. Giving back is our way of investing in the people and organizations that make it such a special place—and helping ensure that same spirit of generosity continues for generations to come," said Hass Machlab.

For the Machlabs, giving is less about any one fund or gift and more about carrying forward a shared commitment to community. By making philanthropy a family tradition, they are creating opportunities for each generation to support the people, organizations, and causes that are meaningful to them.



JERRY & SUSAN BEAVER: Creating Joy in Memory

For Jerry Beaver and his late wife, Susan, giving became a way to create something meaningful for the community they called home. After Susan's passing, Jerry carried forward a charitable project they had envisioned together.

Through a memorial giving fund managed by the CFJC, the Beaver family helped fund accessible playground equipment at Centennial Park in North Liberty, including a "We-Go-Swing" and "We-Go-Round" designed for children of all abilities. Their generosity transformed remembrance into a place where children and families can play, connect, and belong.

These stories are different, but they share a common thread: generosity is deeply personal. The CFJC is honored to help donors turn what matters most to them into meaningful action—connecting their passions with opportunities to strengthen the community we all share.

GROWING IMPACT

A Record Year of Community Impact

In FY26, the Community Foundation of Johnson County experienced a remarkable year of generosity, collaboration, and community impact — awarding more than $6.4 million through 861 grants to organizations and initiatives helping Johnson County and communities beyond it thrive.

Behind those numbers are hundreds of stories of impact. Grants helped put food on tables, connect families with safe and stable housing, expand access to healthcare, support youth and education, strengthen arts and cultural experiences, and build the capacity of local nonprofits. They also helped make ambitious community projects possible — from investing in new gathering spaces and recreational amenities to supporting programs that create opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

The year included several standout investments, including a $1.2 million Centennial Park Next Stage grant, the largest single grant in the CFJC's history. Competitive grant programs invested in nonprofits tackling pressing local needs, while donor-advised funds connected individual generosity with organizations and causes important to fundholders.

Scholarships opened doors for local students, and grants supported projects ranging from a new full-time staff member for operations management, to a new vehicle to provide transportation for a supported employment janitorial crew, to 8,000lbs of ground beef distributed to local food pantries, to new website development, and even a laminator to make educational and therapeutic materials reusable and more sustainable.

In all, 284 organizations received support during FY26, including 80 new grantees—demonstrating both the breadth of the CFJC's reach and the growing network of people and organizations working to strengthen our communities.

This record year is about more than dollars awarded. It reflects what is possible when donors, fundholders, nonprofit partners, and community members come together around a shared commitment to making a difference. Each grant represents generosity put to work—and another investment in a stronger, more connected community well into the future.





A Historic Investment in Community: The CFJC's Largest Grant Ever

In 2026, the Community Foundation of Johnson County reached an exciting milestone — awarding the largest single grant in our history: $1,246,300 to the City of North Liberty's Centennial Park Next Stage Project.

The Centennial Park project is the result of more than a decade of vision, planning, and partnership. What began in 2010, has grown into a vibrant community destination featuring the Hy-Vee Center, outdoor amphitheater, plaza space, and gathering areas designed to bring people together for years to come.

The CFJC was proud to play a role in moving that vision forward. From making an early investment of $50,000 in the project to administering the Centennial Park Next Stage Fund, the CFJC provided a trusted home for charitable giving while helping leverage additional grant support and community generosity. Through this partnership, we helped connect donors and resources to the project, building momentum and turning a shared vision into meaningful community investment.

More than 300 individuals, businesses, and foundations contributed to the project — demonstrating what is possible when a community rallies around an idea and invests in its future. Those contributions ultimately culminated in the $1.2 million grant, marking an important milestone for both Centennial Park and the CFJC.

The historic grant was awarded during the CFJC's largest year of grantmaking to date, making it especially fitting that one of the year's defining investments was rooted in collaboration. The Centennial Park Next Stage Fund is philanthropy in action: bringing together donors, partners, and community leaders to create something lasting for the entire community.



Grantmaking That Meets Community Needs

Local people helping direct local resources toward the needs that matter most — that idea is at the heart of the CFJC's Community Impact Grants.

This year, the CFJC made a significant $250,000 investment through Community Impact Grants, providing local nonprofits with substantial funding to move important projects forward. These $25,000 grants support initiatives that respond to community needs, expand opportunity, and meaningfully improve quality of life for people throughout Johnson County.

The 10 projects reflect the many different ways local nonprofits are working to strengthen our community:

- **DVIP & RVAP** — Transitional Housing Project
- **Early Explorers Childcare Center** — Infant Care Room Conversion
- **Healthy Kids School-Based Clinics** — Dental Care for Uninsured Teens
- **Houses Into Homes** — Express Bed Delivery Pilot Program
- **Iowa City Bike Library** — Youth Bike Coordinator Initiative
- **Open Heartland** — Keystone Project for Immigrant and Refugee Support
- **Shelter House** — Fresh Starts Transportation Replacement
- **Table to Table** — Food Access Network Collective Sourcing Pilot
- **The Housing Fellowship** — Affordable Housing ICCSD Student Build
- **United Action for Youth** — SPARK Talks Youth Engagement Program

Together, these investments address needs ranging from housing, food access, and healthcare to early childhood, youth engagement, transportation, and support for immigrant and refugee families. While each project is different, they share a common goal: creating meaningful, lasting improvements in the lives of Johnson County residents.

An important part of the process happens before the grants are awarded. Community reviewers bring local perspectives to the table, reading and evaluating applications and informing funding recommendations. Their involvement helps ensure community voices remain central to the CFJC's grantmaking.

Together, these investments represent $250,000 in grants — and local knowledge, community generosity, and nonprofit expertise working together to address challenges and create opportunities.

Building Stronger Nonprofits

Strong nonprofits are essential to a thriving community. When organizations have the right tools, technology, and infrastructure in place, they can spend more time and resources doing what matters most: advancing their missions and serving our community.

Through our Capacity Building Grants Cycle, the CFJC invested $25,000 directly in the strength and sustainability of 13 local nonprofit organizations. This year's grants focused on infrastructure, marketing, and technology needs, helping organizations make practical improvements that can have a lasting impact on how effectively and efficiently they operate.

Grants addressed a wide range of behind-the-scenes needs. Funding helped strengthen cybersecurity at **Healing Prairie Farm**, upgrade intake and client-management software at the **Coralville Community Food Pantry**, improve technology and communications infrastructure for the **Iowa City Free Lunch Program**, and support technology upgrades at **Open Heartland**, **ChildServe**, and **4Cs Community Coordinated Child Care**. Other investments supported farmers market infrastructure for the **Global Food Project** and cooling and safety improvements at the **Johnson County Agricultural Association**.

Marketing investments supported printing needs for **Inside Out Reentry Community**, storytelling efforts at **Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa**, the "Culture on the Go" initiative at **Midwest Chinese Academy**, marketing and promotional materials for the **North Liberty Community Pantry**, and a website consolidation and enhancement project for **TRAIL of Johnson County**.

While these investments may happen behind the scenes, their impact reaches far beyond the office. Better systems can help an organization serve more people, communicate more effectively, strengthen its operations, and remain responsive as community needs evolve.

Capacity building recognizes that investing in an organization itself is an investment in its mission. By helping nonprofits strengthen their foundations, the CFJC is supporting their ability to grow, adapt, and continue delivering meaningful services throughout Johnson County. When our nonprofits are stronger, our entire community is stronger.



GROWING OPPORTUNITY



Investing in the Next Generation

In FY26, the Community Foundation of Johnson County awarded more than $57,875 in scholarships through 30 scholarship awards, helping students pursue their educational goals beyond high school. Through the generosity of donors, the CFJC supported students through ten scholarship funds: the Abner Masonic Lodge Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Ada Woo and William Ching Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Altrusa Jo Beers Scholarship Fund, the First Baptist Church Scholarship Fund, the Greater Iowa City Area Student Scholarship Fund, the Neumann Monson Scholarship Fund, the Niles Schreiber Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Outstanding Youth in Agriculture Scholarship Fund, the Svatos Engineering Endowed Scholarship Fund, and the Tim Tjaden Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

From future educators and engineers to agricultural leaders and skilled trades professionals, these recipients represent the talent and promise of our community. The CFJC is proud to invest in students as they build their futures and strengthen Johnson County for years to come.

Food Is a Community Issue

Food access is about more than what's on the table. It's connected to health, housing, transportation, economic stability, and the overall well-being of our community. At the Community Foundation of Johnson County, we believe meaningful solutions begin by listening to the people and organizations closest to the challenges.

In September, the CFJC hosted a Community Conversation on Food Insecurity, bringing community members together to better understand local needs. The conversation featured Nicki Ross of Table to Table, Ryan Bobst of North Liberty Community Pantry, Aaron Tarchinski of Horizons Family Services, Adrianne Korbakes of CommUnity Crisis Services & Food Bank, Alison Demory of the Iowa City Community School District, and Laura Hunter of the Iowa City Free Lunch Program. That commitment extended beyond conversation through the CFJC's Food with Love Fund, which directed $20,000 in charitable dollars to four local organizations working to improve food access and address hunger throughout Johnson County. The grants helped turn community generosity into direct support for organizations meeting immediate needs while strengthening our local food system. Together, these efforts reinforced an important lesson: complex challenges require collaborative solutions. By listening, sharing knowledge, connecting resources, and investing in local organizations, we can respond more thoughtfully and build a community where everyone has greater access to the resources they need to thrive.

Building a Library, Building Community

The Community Foundation of Johnson County was proud to support the Rotary Library at the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County (NCJC) Towncrest Center, a collaborative project created to expand access to books, early literacy resources, and opportunities for connection for children and families in Johnson County.

The project brought together Noon Rotary, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, community partners, donors, and volunteers around a shared belief in the importance of literacy and early learning. The Iowa City Public Library generously contributed the library's book collection, helping fill the space with materials for children and families to enjoy. Located within NCJC's Early Childhood Center, the Rotary Library provides children and families with access to books and learning resources in a welcoming, community-centered environment.

"The Rotary Library reflects what Rotary is all about — bringing people together to create lasting, positive change. By investing in literacy and putting books directly into the hands of children and families, we're helping open doors to learning and opportunity for years to come," said Margaret Reese.

More than a collection of books, the Rotary Library puts literacy resources within easy reach for children and families, creating greater access to opportunities that support early development and future learning. It demonstrates what can happen when local organizations combine their expertise, relationships, and resources around a shared community goal.

Chastity Dillard, NCJC Development & Communications Director, shared, "Having the Rotary Library within our Early Childhood Center means books and learning are part of the everyday experience for the children and families we serve. It's a welcoming space where families can read together, explore new stories, and build a love of learning from an early age."

The CFJC played an important role by holding the charitable fund supporting the Rotary Library, providing a trusted way for donors and community members to contribute to the project. This type of partnership is central to the CFJC's work — connecting generosity with local ideas and helping community-driven projects move from vision to reality.

The Rotary Library is also a reminder that strengthening a community can begin by putting the right resources within reach. Greater access to books and learning opportunities supports children today while helping build a foundation for lifelong learning. The CFJC is proud to have played a role in bringing this collaborative vision to life and to support an investment in literacy, families, and a more connected Johnson County.

GROWING TOGETHER



A Growing Team, A Shared Commitment

Behind every grant, partnership, event, and community connection is a team of people committed to making Johnson County stronger.

Throughout the year, the CFJC continued to grow and evolve, welcoming two new team members and two interns who brought fresh perspectives, new skills, and added capacity to our work. Together with our existing staff, they helped expand the CFJC's ability to connect with donors, support nonprofits, and respond to opportunities across our community.

That work is strengthened by the leadership of the CFJC's Board of Directors, whose guidance, expertise, and commitment help shape the Foundation's vision and keep our work rooted in the needs of Johnson County.

This year also brought special recognition for President & CEO Shelly Maharry, who was named a 2025 Woman of Influence by the Corridor Business Journal. The annual award celebrates women who have made a significant impact in their organizations, industries, and communities through leadership, achievement, and service. Shelly's recognition reflects not only her leadership of the CFJC, but also her commitment to collaboration, philanthropy, and strengthening the greater Johnson County community.

From new faces to longtime leaders, the people behind the CFJC share one commitment: working together to build a stronger, more connected community.



Shelly Maharry, President and CEO

Julie Yoder, Vice President of Finance and Operations

Ellie Moore, Vice President of Community Impact and Outreach

Brittnee Henry, Director of Philanthropy

Jenni Hatz, Marketing and Communications Specialist



Growing What Comes Next

As the CFJC looks toward its next 25 years, we do so with strong roots and an even stronger sense of possibility. New donors and fundholders, the launch of the Heart of Johnson County Legacy Society, and an evolving philanthropic landscape are creating new opportunities to grow generosity across our community.

Emerging community needs and new approaches to grantmaking will continue to shape how we serve Johnson County. But our commitment remains constant: listening, connecting people with causes they care about, and investing in solutions that strengthen our community.

Our roots give us strength. Our partnerships help us grow. And together, we're building what comes next.

Community Foundation of Johnson County

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CFNS
ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation of Johnson County is committed to excellence and accountability as exceptional stewards of charitable resources in our community. The CFJC is accredited by the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™. This accreditation program affirms we have met or exceeded the most rigorous standards of philanthropic excellence. To receive accreditation, we submitted our policies and procedures to a meticulous review of 26 National Standards in the six key areas of: community foundation operations, board governance, donor services, investment management, grantmaking, and administration.