



PHFoundation

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

You make the difference. Together we make it possible.



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Cover Image:

Eyerusalem Gebreysus, a Lab Technician at Michigan Tech, processes samples in the COVID-19 Testing Lab that was put together in 2020 in response to the global pandemic. PHF funded the lab's expansion as part of its more than half million-dollar expenditure in response to COVID-19. Read more on page 3 or visit phfgive.org/covid19.



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The Portage Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.



Hopefully we never see another year as filled with struggle, division and pain as we did in 2020. In this annual report we make note of that, but we also focus on the incredible positives that took place that year.

A couple of the things we're most proud of are the culture-shifting activities you'll read about with the PHF Food Initiative and Capturing Kids' Hearts. These are highly focused programs that we're implementing to help make things better today, but more importantly to make things dramatically better in the future. There are hundreds of details with those, and we hope you take the time to listen to our podcast, follow us on social media and read through our monthly newsletter to follow along with them as they evolve.

We also highlight big responses with a look at our efforts to help our community through COVID and a media series we did talking about what no one wants to talk about - addiction in our community. Finally, we talk about giving. Joey Kirkish is a man many know, but most don't realize the incredible impact he's had as a donor, and we couldn't be more proud to talk about what's happened with Giving Tuesday in our community.

We hope you enjoy this publication and find pride in our community through the incredible things it highlights.



Dear Friends,

“When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change; at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait. Life does not look back.”

Paul Coelho

To say that 2020 was a challenging year would be an understatement. The year was punctuated by disease, despair, despondency, desperation and divisiveness. COVID-19 hit our nation like a storm with wave after wave of surges that overwhelmed our hospitals, medical staff and front-line workers. Despair hit family members, unable to be with their loved ones, even in their final moments. Students became despondent, unable to attend in-person classes, to play sports or to meet with friends. And business owners became desperate as they were unable to remain open, much less to keep their workers employed.

Unfortunately, divisiveness also reared its ugly head. We saw this in the unlawful killing of George Floyd and in the aftermath to that. We heard this in the vitriol that filled our airways in the run-up to the election. Americans are divided.

In the midst of these distressing times, I was fortunate to be a part of something that brought, to me, a glimmer of hope. I found a sense of cohesiveness; an understanding that we are all in this together. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Portage Health Foundation opened a dialogue with our community partners. We wanted to learn from them what they needed to enable their work, to meet the needs of their clients and staff. It started with finding the hand sanitizer and masks our partners desperately needed. From there it developed into something quite wonderful. A burgeoning community formed from those initial seeds, and it has blossomed into a weekly virtual meeting where our partners share ideas, information and encouragement. This community has grown to include other funders and service providers from Ironwood to Ishpeming to downstate. Our partners have carried on with the work of their missions during these incredibly difficult times. They have learned to adapt to the new normal, and though their service delivery may not look the same as it did before, they are doing it in a way that ensures the safety of their clients and their staff. They are carrying on with the encouragement, ideas and support of their fellow community partners.

I am privileged and heartened to have been a part of these virtual meetings. I have learned of the added struggles people in our four-county area have faced due to COVID-19, and I have been inspired by the ingenious ways our community partners have met these hurdles. They deserve our congratulations and your continued support.

We will one day look back at these challenging times and reflect on how our lives were forever changed by the pandemic. Knowing that we will all be irrevocably affected by this, I pray that each of you also find a glimmer of hope, in the knowledge that you are part of this incredible community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette Yeoman-Ouellette".

Bernadette Yeoman-Ouellette
PHF Board Chair



Coming Together to Get Through Pandemic

Thursday morning conversations for non-profits were all over the place. One non-profit director might announce they were a grandparent for the first time, another might boast about recently receiving a federal loan to cover their payroll, while a third might discuss how masking policies were going at their facility. The conversations were useful, inspiring and at times simply uplifting.

Like many other sectors, our local non-profit agencies struggled during the pandemic. It was hard. But every Thursday morning they called in and had a circle of others who they could talk through the issues with. For

some it opened doors. Others left the conversations motivated. Everyone became closer to the others on the call. Personal connections are hard to make digitally, but in 2020 that's what happened with these weekly calls.

Portage Health Foundation (PHF) board and staff members had to adjust like everyone else with the onset of the pandemic. Staying true to our mission we worked to positively influence a healthier community through enhanced philanthropy and collaboration. That started with the weekly calls and the creation of the COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund. In total more than a half million dollars was spent.

COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund

PHF created this restricted fund for the purpose of mobilizing resources for the citizens of Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties. It aimed to give donors seeking an official conduit to contribute to relief efforts. We received, recorded, held and dispersed all monies contributed to this restricted fund for health/humanitarian relief of residents. The money was used to help offset non-federally covered expenses for municipalities, citizens and other relief efforts as determined appropriate. Below is a quick look at what was done as of August 1, 2021. Most of these expenses were done well before the calendar year flipped.



WiFi Network - \$3,800

With coffee shops and public libraries not available to visit and it being unsafe to visit family or friends, many people suddenly found themselves without access to the internet. PHF partnered with Baraga Telephone Company, REMCI and Peninsula Fiber Network to create a network of WiFi Hotspots where people could park their cars and access the internet free of charge.

Non-Profit Support – More than \$25,000

This money helped 31 Backpacks purchase more food, Copper Country Senior Meals delivered meals safely, provided personal

protective equipment, assisted in fundraising efforts through Read for Relief at Portage Lake District Library, restock the baby closet shelves at Keweenaw Family Resource Center and more.



Mobile Food Pantries - \$66,000

Partnering with Feeding America West Michigan we brought 15 mobile food pantries to Michigan's Copper Country. These events helped hundreds of families keep fresh food at the table when times were challenging.

Improve COVID-19 Testing Capacity - \$142,359

Our community had COVID-19 testing available quickly thanks to Michigan Technological University, and as demand picked up, we were able to help them double the number of tests that went through their clinic daily. That led to quicker results, more tests being processed, better control of outbreaks and ultimately was a great tool for our community to get through the pandemic safer.

Donations to Local School Districts - \$428,450

One of the hardest hit areas of our community was local school districts. PHF helped make sure they were able to offer as high quality of an experience as possible with donations to every public school in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.



PHF Food Initiative: Connecting Local Families and Local Food

By Karen S. Johnson

Simply put, food is life. And for families in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, food insecurity is a widespread and growing problem, especially for children. General food insecurity in the four-county community served by Portage Health Foundation affects as many as 21.2 percent of families, and tops at 32 percent for children, according to data published in October 2020 by Feeding America West Michigan.

With the Food Initiative, PHF is trying to spark broad change and build a culture around food and health. “We’re coming from a place of abundance,” explained Michelle Seguin, MD, Director of Community Health at the Portage Health

Foundation since 2019. “It’s important to celebrate the people, resources, and knowledge in our region as we build community resilience and work together to reduce stigma.”

The conversation around food is one PHF has been interested in for a number of years, and the organization has accelerated its outreach programming with a number of new initiatives. To help with this, in May 2020 Meghan Jaszczak, RD, joined PHF as Community Health Educator. A registered dietitian, Jaszczak is working closely with Dr. Seguin to expand Food Initiative outreach activities.

“We are trying to make it truly simpler for individuals to improve their quality of life through nutrition,” Jaszczak said.

“Generally speaking, when people have access to healthy foods, set realistic goals, and stick to healthy habits they tend to feel more energized and are better able to engage in the activities they enjoy. I think that it’s really encouraging to see that out in the community and to be a part of that change.”

In general terms, food is one of the biggest influencers and drivers of health, Seguin said. And that healthy eating can influence a ripple effect: improving one person’s health and quality of life leads to the health of a home, which leads to the health of workplaces and schools, and ultimately leads to the health of the entire community.

“I feel there’s an opportunity to shift the needle in terms of individual and community health,” Dr. Seguin added. “Food connects us and unites us, in addition to providing our vital nutrients. And investment in our local food system provides critical access to nutritious food while also supporting our local economy.”

The foundation is approaching its Food Initiative with a comprehensive, collaborative multi-sector approach, with the overall strategic goal of reducing hunger and poor nutrition in our communities.

“Our aim is improving regional, long-term access to nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate food for all,” Seguin said. “In doing so, we hope to cultivate a food culture and environment which supports an active, healthy lifestyle.”

“We’re really digging into all of the different layers and implementing these programs very intentionally,” added Jaszczak. “Our intent is that it will grow and have multiple positive effects on the areas we’re prioritizing.”

The Food Initiative relies on the wide representation of many community sectors, from municipalities, the health department, hospitals, and family services organizations to

the tribal community, the academic community, agriculture, and many other individuals and non-profit groups.

The foundation is a member of the transdisciplinary Western UP Food Systems Collaborative, which acts as a hub for the Food Initiative, providing connections within the regional agricultural community. As members of the collaborative, the foundation contributes to health and nutrition education and outreach, as well as funding.



“This work takes time and relationships,” Seguin emphasized. “Even in our small community, we have opportunities for very robust collaborations, which I think has helped us amplify our response.”

The PHF Food Initiative is now fully underway, but the journey has a long way to go. You can follow along with it by going to phfgive.org/food. While there, subscribe to our quarterly Food Initiative email.



Making a difference...

Below is an overview of a few of the projects we've been invested in recently.

Collective CSA: Through collaborations with area non-profit service organizations, health systems and local family farms the Collective CSA program introduced 20 Baraga and Houghton County families (including 54 children) to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). For 12 weeks, each family received a box of local produce, recipe cards and informational handouts. All participants reported that eating the local produce helped improve their health and/or a family member's health, among many other positive findings.

Double Up Food Bucks: The Calumet Farmer's Market became a local Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program site last summer, and PHF helped them institute a token system for easier use of the Double Up Food Bucks, a SNAP program that encourages healthy eating. For every dollar a SNAP patron spends at the market (or a store), they receive a one dollar token in Food Bucks to purchase fresh Michigan produce. The token system contributed to a 700 percent increase in the use of SNAP matching dollars at the market.

Print Materials: A fun, colorful series of healthy recipe cards and information cards featuring locally grown foods. Look for them at area farmers' markets and keep a close eye for recipes created by chefs in our community.

Biblio Bistro: A series of popular online cooking videos produced in partnership with Portage Lake District Library. Chef Michael (Stanitis) and Dietitian Meghan (Jaszczak) are hosts of these fun videos that feature easy-to-make recipes using Keweenaw produce. .

Community Garden RFP: Grants were awarded to enhance current community gardens or build new garden infrastructure in the four-county area. Outcomes included new access to fresh produce, new opportunities for education, and the creation of shared green spaces that foster social connection and physical activity.

Farmers' Market RFP: Funds to help build market capacity, help them attain needed materials for safely navigating the pandemic and provide training for farmers' market managers through the Michigan Farmers' Market Association.



Imparting passion, interests, education and talents

Joseph Kirkish enriches the lives of others

There are many people that contribute to our community in ways that are memorable and make this a unique place to call home. Some, by their very presence, have established themselves as part of the fabric that makes up the character of this community.

For decades, Joseph Kirkish, PhD, (Joey, as he is called by his friends) has done his part to impart his passions, interests, education, and talents towards enriching others' lives and making this a more vibrant place to call home.

Kirkish is known for many things including his time as a professor at Michigan Tech, and advising one of the local fraternities since its inception. He was the genesis behind our local Minnesota Public Radio station so many years ago. Some of you may know that he served for years as a youth counselor at a Jewish boys Summer Camp in Wisconsin. As a young man, he served this country and is a veteran of World War II. Over the years, perhaps you may have been blessed to catch one of his funny and entertaining puppets shows.

In recent years, Kirkish contributes his time reading stories to the elderly; and showing, sharing and critiquing "his" films in a way that only he can. Since he was a young man, he has offered insights to how wonderful and exciting he sees the world around him through the lens of his camera and the display of his photography. You might even enjoy his musings which are shared through his periodic contributions to the local newspaper. And Kirkish is known through his charity and financial giving. He has helped support so many organizations around the world to do their part in helping others achieve a better life.

Kirkish will tell you that since he was a young boy, traveling with his father through the rural parts of our community selling



housewares, food staples and other offerings from their mercantile, that he has always wanted to be a "Philanthropist." "I don't think I really understood what that meant at the time, but I've always thought that I have what I need; so why not use what I have to help others?!" Kirkish has considered that this desire to give back is as much a part of his Lebanese culture as it is the experience of witnessing his father doing what he could to help his neighbors in times of struggle. This guidance and these experiences instilled in him the idea of "giving" without expectation of anything in return. The Nobelist of ideas: to share of oneself to enrich others' lives.

Over the past few years, Kirkish had requested help from Portage Health Foundation to identify local needs and facilitate his charitable gifts to local organizations that could benefit from his assistance and support. Since 2018, Kirkish's contributions, combined with other funds his contributions have leveraged, has resulted in \$406,000 dollars being expended to support local literacy, mental and behavioral health initiatives, environmental conservation, outdoor education for youth and scholarships – to name a few things the donations have done. These gifts have empowered the wide variety of organizations to better serve the community. These gifts have changed the lives of many people in our community.

On behalf of all the lives and all the people these gifts have touched, PHF would like to say thank you Joey, for imparting your unique gifts and making this a better, healthier community.

NEWS BRIEFS



Cultivating a healthier future with Meghan Jaszczak, RD

Cultivating a healthier future for the community in which she grew up inspired Meghan Jaszczak, RD, to join Portage Health Foundation as the organization's first Community Health Educator.

"I'm a big-picture person," said Jaszczak. "I'm eager to work together with our local organizations to help widen the path toward healthier foods and lifestyles for our community. The potential for healthier cultural and systematic changes in our community is enormous, and I look forward to the challenge and privilege of helping support these changes."

Jaszczak spent the last three years at UP Health System - Portage as a clinical dietitian after a short stint at Aspirus Keweenaw. Having information on how our local healthcare systems works will be important to her success in helping people improve their overall health and reduce their risk of chronic health problems.

Collaboration leads to new recovery residence in L'Anse

Providing an opportunity for a better future was on the minds of many people as they came together to make the new Ripple Recovery Residence in L'Anse a reality. In early 2020, the new facility welcomed its first residents. The main driving force for the house was the local residents involved with the Drug Abatement and Rehabilitation Team (DART), including Dr. Harold Ripple, who the house was named after.

The house is owned and operated by Great Lakes Recovery Centers, but without the collaboration of DART, Superior Health Foundation and Portage Health Foundation, it wouldn't have been possible. Superior Health Foundation provided a \$44,000 grant and Portage Health Foundation provided a \$38,365 grant. Additionally, NorthCare Network, local donors and community support have been instrumental in helping to support and fund recovery housing.

PHF Nominated for Spark Plug Award

Portage Health Foundation was recognized for its excellent customer service with a nomination for a Spark Plug Award in early 2020 in the Customer Service category. PHF was one of four organizations awarded a special Copper Country Strong Spark Plug Award in recognition of our response to the infamous Father's Day Flood in 2018. This is the second year in a row PHF has been nominated in the Customer service category, third straight year the organization has been nominated in any category and fourth total nomination.



Chassell Trails Mapping Project a Success

With support from the Keweenaw Community Foundation’s PHF Outdoor Wellness and Recreation Fund Grant, the Chassell Trails Mapping Project was successfully completed. The project supports existing and new trail development in Houghton and surrounding counties by providing users of the existing classic cross-country ski and snowshoe trails and the new fitness trail with GPS-mapped trails laid into Google Maps. The project also provides large-scale, detailed maps installed at the Heritage Center, former ice rink, Marinette Street and Archambeau Road trailheads, as well as the 2K and 5K cutoffs.

Guy St. Germain brings expertise to PHF Board

Coming in with more than 40 years of relevant experience, Guy St. Germain, MPA, joined the Portage Health Foundation Board of Directors in 2020.

“Guy is one of the first community stakeholders I met with when we transitioned the foundation in 2013,” said Kevin Store, executive director at Portage Health Foundation.

“He left an indelible impression on me at that time and I am excited to have someone with his experience, objectivity and genuine desire to see our community succeed on the Board of Directors. It’s expected that he will apply a high level of engagement as a member of our governance.”

His career arc is a perfect fit for this role. He worked as a first responder for Mercy EMS for 25 years, spent 24 years administering Western Upper Peninsula Health Department and served on many community boards that focused on improving the health and life of the Copper Country community.



\$37,400 to grow community gardens

In 2020 the foundation opened its first Request for Proposals focused on community gardens and awarded \$37,400 between nine projects who responded to the foundation’s Community Gardens request for proposals.

“Overall, we are very pleased with this group of grantees,” said Dr. Michelle Seguin, Director of Community Health at PHF. “The projects funded will serve a wide cross-section of the community in a variety of different settings including traditional community gardens, schools and residential housing

complexes. It's especially exciting to see the collaborations involved including school-community-based partnerships and opportunities for intergenerational learning. When we learn, grow and eat together, we all win." Learn more about these projects at phfgive.org/2020communitygardens.



\$79,500 invested in recreational facilities and resources

Early in 2020 Portage Health Foundation proudly announced \$79,500 has been awarded to four organizations who responded to PHF's Community Recreational Facilities and Resources request for proposals. Grants were awarded to Calumet Township, Chassell Township, Houghton Township and Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club. Learn more about these projects at phfgive.org/2020recgrants.

Therapy dogs joins CLK schools

Students flocked around the office at the end of a blisteringly cold and windy December day, but it had nothing to do with the unwelcoming weather they were about to embark on for their journey home. Instead, it was because they needed some time with, as one student called him, "Bleau-ey."

We're, of course, talking about Bleau, the therapy dog who spends his days at Washington Middle School. He's one of two certified therapy dogs that the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw have on their campuses. The other is Tucker, who spends his days at Horizons Alternative High School in Mohawk. Both are doodle mixes, which are well known for their loving personality and because people with dog allergies generally aren't affected by them.

The introduction of therapy dogs is one of many parts of the district's Creating a Trauma Informed School grant, which started in 2018 and continued in 2019. In total, more than \$80,000 has been invested into the district for the program.

GuideStar's highest Seal of Transparency

Portage Health Foundation earned the 2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar. By sharing metrics that highlight progress PHF is making toward its mission to positively influence a healthier community through enhanced philanthropy and collaboration, the organization is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation such as overhead ratios.



"This rating is based on internal controls and procedures that reflect the foundation's commitment to managing these resources with integrity and in the best interest of our community," Executive Director Kevin Store said. "All of their rating criteria is intended to give assurances to would-be donors that the organization is fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities and has other administrative processes in place to ensure the organization is functioning at a high level."

Capturing Kids' Hearts fosters youth potential at Copper Country schools

By Jesse Wiederhold

Kids across the Copper Country have been given tools to become well-mannered, perceptive young adults. They're smiling, laughing and most importantly — caring for one another. These students, as well as their teachers and staff, are putting in time and effort to become their best selves. This is how the Capturing Kid's Hearts (CKH) program can improve the way a school works for its students.

Newly appointed Copper Country Intermediate School District (CCISD) Superintendent Jim Rautiola said the biggest change he's seen since implementing CKH was the way his students, staff and faculty speak to each other.

"Our intent is usually in the right spot," said Rautiola. "But, if we all are on the same page and we're speaking the same language, there's no misconception on the direction of the conversation." Rautiola said this applies to discipline as well. He knows first hand as he led the implementation during the 2020-21 school year at Stanton Township Schools, where he served as superintendent before accepting the CCISD position in summer 2021. CKH gives educators, students and administrators better tools to mitigate conflicts as they arise.

"It would get to the point where a kid might have a problem with another student and it would get brought up in my office," said Rautiola. "Before even coming into the office, the anxiety level was lower. They knew exactly what the process was going to look like." Rautiola said instead of



telling kids what they've done wrong when they come to his office, the CKH discipline model focuses on asking them. "It was pretty cool," said Rautiola. "They would essentially just run through what I was going to ask them." Letting the students own up to their own mistake is one thing. However, that's just the beginning for CKH schools.

"They spend a couple of minutes there, and they would tell you what they were going to do to resolve the situation," said Rautiola. After the resolution is agreed upon, he checks in with the students throughout the remainder of the day. And most of the time, Rautiola said his students have made amends and moved on.

"Let's take the ownership piece here and let's make an unpleasant situation a situation we can actually learn from," concluded Rautiola. CKH helps with discipline from an administrator perspective, but it is important to note that most of the program deploys in the classroom.

Ontonagon Area School District 5th Grade Teacher Hillary Sundblad said she began CKH training just before the 2020-2021 school year. She said it improved her days and her students' days dramatically. Students in Ontonagon got to first experience CKH through one of its most common facets – a classroom social contract.



"You have the kids come up with things that they expect of you as a teacher," said Sundblad. "Then the students come up with things that the teacher might expect of them, and you write them all down." Sundblad said this helps the kids feel like they are setting their own rules. This, in turn, makes for more of an incentive to meet those expectations that are set. Sundblad



said after finishing the list, it's hung up to be on display for the class throughout the school year.

CKH focuses on building positive relationships between students and staff. That focus strengthens the idea that kids would want to behave better if they care more about others around them. Sundblad said positive, relationship-building conversations begin first thing in the morning.

"The idea of greeting them at the door, asking them how they are," said Sundblad. "[Or] about things that are bothering them." Sundblad said open and honest conversation like these show kids they can trust and open up to their teachers. If something is bothering a student, it could impact their studies, which is why CKH schools like to be in the know.

"Kids spend an average of seven-to-eight hours a day at school," said Sundblad. "There are students who might not come from the best of environments. Whether it be at home, or things they've witnessed. We owe it to them to give them the best day that is possible."

Sundblad said she hopes to show her students that they're all

human, and that it's okay to feel things and have emotions. Moving ahead, she looks forward to fully implementing the second round of CKH training the district received before the start of the 2021-22 academic year, which is once again being provided by PHF.

Sundblad said the support has been phenomenal. "You could not ask for more support, or a better guy," she said, talking about PHF's Executive Director Kevin Store. "He works with us. He enables us to be involved in these." Sundblad said PHF "helps us make our districts, our schools and our curriculums better for our students."

Store said he's more than happy to support Copper Country kids through Capturing Kids' Hearts. In fact, he thinks the program's effects are quite significant.

"The things that the students are getting every day in its simplest form is really just a safe environment to navigate life's difficulties with trained staff and faculty that are better equipped to identify and work through those issues with the students," said Store, who hopes the values instilled will be for life. "It'll have a profound impact on our community for years to come as we move forward."

At the end of the day, a positive difference has been made in the Copper Country. Portage Health Foundation heard the needs, made the connections and helped implement something special. Every school district but one in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties has now been introduced to Capturing Kids' Hearts. Students in those schools are now better listened to, their opinions are valued and more social doors are being opened. With the valuable tools these kids now have thanks to Capturing Kids' Hearts they will be ready for whatever future situations life will unfold.



Sarah Blakely
TV6 Morning News Co-Anchor



Portage Health Foundation Addiction Series

Episodes

- 1 – Addiction - The Problem
- 2 – The Brain and Addiction
- 3 – The Stigma of Addiction
- 4 – Role of Law Enforcement
- 5 – Economic Impacts of Addiction
- 6 – Addiction Never Sleeps
- 7 – Medical Treatment for Addiction
- 8 – Addiction and Health
- 9 – The Solution to Addiction
- 10 – Impact on Our Community
- 11 – Mental Health and Addiction
- 12 – UPSET West Efforts
- 13 – Portage Health Foundation Efforts

Addiction brought to light with media series

Amid a global pandemic that amplified the issue of addiction, Portage Health Foundation worked with key partners to create a 13-part series focused on addiction. It was called the PHF Addiction Series and from June 21 through September 13, 2020 the foundation released one episode per week. Each episode featured local experts who work on the front lines of the battle against addiction in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

Experts talked about what addiction is, how it happens, the many effects it has on the person, their friends and family, and the community. Guests also talked about what's being done to address addiction, offer solutions for those who are struggling or know someone who is, and help viewers better understand what they can do to help.

"We have a real issue," said Kevin Store, executive director of PHF. "Virtually all aspects of our community are affected. This is our problem."

The series was hosted by former TV6 reporter Sarah Blakely and is available as a podcast or a video. In the series you hear from Mark Maggio at the Phoenix House, Dr. Adam Frimodig from UP Health System, John Donnelly of the Houghton Police Department, Rebecca Crane from Dial Help and former PHF Board member Nikki Collins, who talks about her battle with addiction.

"We can't hide from this issue anymore," said Bernadette Yeoman-Ouellette, PHF Board Chair.

"We have to confront it. We have to work together as a community to address it. Until we do that, it's only going to continue to expand in our community and take much more of a toll on our community."

Links to listen or watch the entire series are available at phfgive.org/addiction. You can also find it on the PHF Podcast feed or on the Portage Health Foundation YouTube channel.



these nonprofits can use this money to invest in new tools to improve programming, use it to pay living wages for their staff or start a rainy day fund to help them prepare for darker days. The bottom line is that these funds are improving lives.

For the Baraga County Shelter Home that might mean replacing a broken bed, allowing a woman who is going through a hard time to get a good night's sleep. For 31 Backpacks that means a meal for children this weekend when otherwise they would have gone hungry waiting for their next meal at school. For Keweenaw Family Resource Center it means another family is able to bring their kids to the indoor playground to play, as Giving Tuesday donations are often used to fill their scholarship fund. Omega House keeps

the lights on if the power goes out because of Giving Tuesday, as Omega House used a portion of the \$131,965.82 they received in 2020 to purchase a new backup power source.

While it helps these families one at a time live a better, healthier life, the money also comes with very little resource utilization from the non-profit. The people who run these organizations remained laser focused on the work they do while Portage Health Foundation took care of nearly all logistics associated with raising nearly \$400,000 in 2020. Even more so, donors can rest easy knowing that every penny donated goes directly to the organizations. PHF covers all of the credit card fees associated with online

Giving Tuesday has turned into landmark event for local non-profits

Through four years of Portage Health Foundation's Giving Tuesday efforts, more than \$1.2 million has been put into the pocketbooks of nonprofits in Michigan's Copper Country. These are organizations large and small, but one thing is true for all of them - this has turned into one of their largest fundraisers of the year.

"We often think about these organizations and celebrate the checks they receive and work they do, but what matters a lot more than that is the impact these funds are having in households around our community," PHF Executive Director Kevin Store said.

The funds they receive from Giving Tuesday is one of the few they bring in that are completely undesignated. That means



donations and pays for the paper, envelopes and postage for every donor recognition letter that is sent out.

“Our non-profits do such incredible work all year,” said Michael H. Babcock, Director of Marketing and Communications for PHF. “The fact that we can help them out with one huge fundraiser every year is inspiring and it’s something all of us associated with the Portage Health Foundation take great pride in.”



GIVING TUESDAY TOTALS THROUGH 2020

Non-Profit	Total Received
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly	\$328,732.30
Omega House	\$253,367.87
UP Kids - Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$97,136.04
Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter Home	\$86,289.27
Dial Help	\$77,598.12
Keweenaw Family Resource Center	\$67,954.80
31 Backpacks	\$65,183.80
Simple Kindness for Youth (SKY)	\$60,973.47
Swedetown Trails Club	\$40,386.47
Baraga County Shelter Home	\$36,659.59
Copper Country Senior Meals	\$31,046.44
Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire and Rescue	\$24,839.74
Copper Harbor Trails Club	\$23,965.44
Ontonagon County Cancer Association	\$19,301.77
Phoenix House	\$17,815.00
Dan Schmitt Gift of Music	\$15,553.46
Friends of the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park	\$9,168.46
Superior Search & Rescue	\$9,092.47
Keweenaw Random Acts of Community Kindness	\$6,493.47

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 500,269
Accounts Receivable.....	36,100
Prepaid Expenses.....	9,929
Investments, at fair value	69,329,972
Investments, at fair value, held by KCF.....	—
Equity Investments.....	7,952,027
Property and Equipment	71,775

TOTAL ASSETS

77,900,072

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable.....	38,817
Payroll Liabilities.....	5,908
Accrued Payroll.....	25,955
Grants Payable.....	653,385

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

724,065

Non-current portion of Grants Payable.....	—
Total Liabilities.....	724,065

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	77,176,007
Temporarily Restricted Assets	285,735

TOTAL NET ASSETS

77,176,007

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

77,900,072

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE

Contributions.....	2020 818,937
Fundraising.....	—
Program Income.....	9,660
Interest and dividends	778
Federal Grant.....	20,179
Investment income; net of fees.....	1,104,537
Grant Refund.....	—
Other Income (Loss).....	2,868
In-Kind Contributions.....	16,246
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Assets.....	—
Joint Venture Equity gain (loss).....	60,985
Unrealized gain (loss) on investment securities.....	8,029,781
Realized gain (loss) on investment securities.....	852,869
Other income (loss).....	—

TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

10,916,840

Expenses	—
Program expenses.....	2,827,012
Management and general expenses.....	681,537
Fundraising expenses.....	5,000

TOTAL EXPENSES

3,513,549

Net Assets Released from Restriction.....	560,238
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INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS w/o Donor Restrictions..... **7,963,529**

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Contributions.....	608,706
Net assets released from restrictions.....	(560,238)

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS w/Donor Restrictions..... **48,468**

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS..... **8,011,997**

Net assets at beginning of year	69,164,010
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NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR..... **77,176,007**

2020

2020



**PORTAGE HEALTH FOUNDATION
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF
GRANT AWARDS - CASH BASIS**

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Administrative

Baraga County Shelter Home.....	\$ 100
Keweenaw Family Resource Center.....	150
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly.....	750
R. Decker Nursing Excellence Award (Karla Bastian).....	200
Ontonagon County Animal Protection	100
Salvation Army	220
Copper Country Humane Society.....	200
AHA Process - Poverty Reduction Professional Development	225

Food Initiative

31 Backpacks.....	\$ 100
Local Farms.....	5,400
Barkell Elementary School.....	5,000
City of Hancock.....	1,900
Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD.....	5,000
Osceola Township.....	5,000
Village of South Range.....	5,000
Main Street Calumet.....	2,045
Finlandia University.....	7,000
Chassell Township Schools	5,000
Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Schools.....	2,500
Copper Country Senior Meals program	2,250
City of Houghton - Farmer's Market.....	1,617
Lake Linden Farmer's Market	1,000
Western UP Food Bank - COVID food distribution	2,000
Western UP Food Bank supplemental program.....	2,000
Feeding America.....	20,400
Let's Eat Community Meals.....	2,400
Baraga Area Schools.....	2,000
Ontonagon Area Schools.....	5,000
Supplies.....	56

Safe Communities & Recreation

Copper Country Intermediate School District.....	\$ 15,900
Stanton Township.....	13,950
Chassell Township.....	20,000
Elm River Township.....	2,300

Arvon Township.....	2,650
Calumet Township.....	20,000
Baraga Area Schools	21,850
Adams Township	29,350
Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Schools.....	21,800
Ewen-Trout Creek Schools.....	14,250
Grant Township Schools	2,300
Hancock Public Schools.....	41,900
Houghton Portage Township Schools.....	76,700
L'Anse Area Schools.....	34,950
Lake Linden Hubbell Schools	24,800
Ontonagon Area Schools	18,750
Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium, Keweenaw	89,550
Houghton Portage Township School Foundation	2,359
Keweenaw ATV	4,334
Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club	3,000
Keweenaw Snow Club	886
Superior Snow Club	886
Ontonagon Area Gladiator Booster Club.....	3,000
31 Backpacks - COVID grant.....	5,000
Ontonagon County - COVID grant.....	2,700
Western Upper Peninsula Planning District	2,500
UP Kids - Big Brothers Big Sisters.....	142,856
Chassell Township Schools	17,450
Houghton Township	19,500
Keweenaw Family Resource Center	3,000
Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club	20,000
Ontonagon Village Housing Commission.....	3,000
Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire Department	2,610
Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD.....	1,000
Community Advertising and Supplies - COVID.....	11,245
Keweenaw Family Resource Center - COVID.....	900
City of Houghton (UPSET West).....	124,981
Michigan Technological University - COVID Lab.....	142,359

Mental & Behavioral Health

School based trauma/resiliency training for local schools.....	\$ 273,000
Great Lakes Recovery Center.....	38,365
Dial Help.....	300,000
Phoenix House	500
Keweenaw Family Resource Center.....	100
Supplies.....	5,457

Flood Relief

Relief payments to individuals & contractors..... \$ 36,226

Scholarships

Gogebic Community College..... \$ 18,000
 Finlandia University..... 12,000
 NMU Foundation..... 10,000
 Northern Michigan University..... 6,000
 Michigan Technological University..... 10,000
 MSU College of Human Medicine..... 3,000
 Western Michigan University..... 5,000
 University of Minnesota..... 1,000
 St. Olaf College..... 5,000
 University of Pennsylvania..... 1,000
 Portage Lake District Library..... 1,000
 Penn Foster College..... 1,000
 James Bogan Health Scholarship..... 5,000
 Dial Help..... 1,604
 UP Kids - Big Brothers Big Sisters..... 1,604
 Keweenaw Family Resource Center..... 1,604

Giving Tuesday

Omega House..... \$ 132,061
 Keweenaw Random Acts of Community Kindness..... 6,494
 Baraga County Shelter Home..... 20,069
 Copper Country Senior Meals..... 19,311
 Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter Home..... 39,074
 Dan Schmitt Gift of Music..... 8,799
 Keweenaw Family Resource Center..... 30,880
 Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly..... 112,724
 Ontonagon County Cancer Association..... 6,694
 Friends of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park..... 9,168
 Simple Kindness for Youth..... 25,747
 Superior Search and Rescue..... 2,628
 Swedetown Trails..... 23,263
 UP Kids - Big Brothers Big Sisters..... 29,283
 Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department..... 24,840
 31 Backpacks..... 47,135
 Copper Harbor Trails Club..... 23,965
 Dial Help..... 32,923

Access to Care:

Holiday Gas Cards (Keller Family Community Foundation) Cancer Care Transport..... \$ 2,000

TOTAL GRANT AWARDS

\$ 2,363,386.00





PHF Foundation

2020 Board of Directors

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Brent Peterson, Vice Chair
Ann Clancy-Klemme, Secretary
Bruce Rukkila, Treasurer
Michele Blau
James Bobula
Guy St. Germain
Jeanne Kurtz
Jamey Markham
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Jonathan Leinonen

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Executive Director
Dr. Michelle Seguin,
Director of Community Health
Connie Greenleaf,
Executive Assistant / Compliance
Mary Jo Munch,
Grants Management Coordinator
Meghan Jaszczak,
Community Health Educator
Michael H. Babcock,
Marketing & Communications
Director



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2020! I think we can all agree that this has been a year of challenge resulting in hardship, heartbreak and irreconcilable loss. I am challenged as I sit to compose this letter of address to not repeat the sincere sentiment shared by Bernadette. I struggle with my own emotion; remnant of all that was lost and the sense of grief that – like so many other people that I know – still needs some healing.

Annual reports like this serve to be as much of a historical record of our thoughts, attitudes, perceptions and actions of the time to be retained and conveyed for future consideration and reflection. At times, I think that purpose is more important than the function they serve to update our community on the past year's activities. I am compelled to ask, then, what is it from this year that is important for posterity's sake? What reminder do we need to take into our future?

I acknowledge the loss created by the realness of this COVID Pandemic. The dramatic impact that it has had on every aspect of life cannot be understated. However, there is more to focus on than the negative influence and aspects of COVID on this past year.

What is more important to me is to recall how our community decided to respond, with intention, to all that we faced. Once again, we witnessed and were part of an amazing community that chose to work collaboratively to find solutions to the problems that were being experienced. A difficult expectation to live up to when one considers that this was a novel virus creating novel challenges and conditions. No one had the answers!

Yet, considering all that was overwhelming our community, there was a “collective decision” by many of our partners to come together and have solution-focused conversations, share resources, support one another, and to remain vigilant and focused on those aspects of this pandemic that we could

manage and address. As challenges and other issues were being presented from all sides, there was also a decision to try to slow the conversation down so it could become more deliberate and responsive as opposed to a constant state of reaction to the chaos.

Initially, nearly two dozen partners came together to share the challenges of the day with friendly faces that understood the stress and anxiety of not having answers that so many people desperately wanted. We celebrated together small milestones and successes and offered encouragement and support (especially when so many people were being personally and viciously attacked for simply trying to do their jobs as best as they could with the tools and information they had at the time). We were able to celebrate small victories like simply securing hand sanitizer and masks at a time when the market demand soared, and the supply was limited or non-existent. We celebrated dedication to keep the doors open at safety-net organizations which were needed to respond appropriately to the community's needs – whether that was the meals continuing to be delivered by Copper Country Senior Meals, medical transportation being offered by Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, crisis calls being answered at Dial Help, or folks whose end-of-life journey was respectfully attended to by the staff of Omega House. We were able to leverage our partner-resources to come to greater solutions like that which resulted in the expansion of the COVID Lab at Michigan Tech. Throughout all of this PHF was there helping to keep the conversation moving, offering logistic support, and/or providing considerable funding for our partners,



schools, and public health with the intention to help keep our community safe and as open as possible.

What will I think of when I reflect on 2020? I will recall examples of determination, humility, perseverance and resiliency. I will remember moments of compassion and understanding. I will recount the friendships that were forged out of this difficult time. I will reflect on the examples of grace, understanding and patience that were extended to one another. Mostly, I will remember (with great admiration and respect) all the people that I had the privilege of working with that gave of themselves behind the scenes without public applause or recognition to do the best they could in an incredibly difficult period of our history. To all of YOU... thank you!


Kevin N. Store
Executive Director



PHFoundation

400 Quincy Street
P.O. Box 299
Hancock, MI 49930



**You make the difference.
Together we make it possible.**

Mission:

To positively influence a healthier community through enhanced philanthropy and collaboration.

Vision:

- To influence a shared vision
- To foster collaborations and partnerships
- To build community capacity to shape outcomes

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

by making a tax-deductible donation at phfgive.org/donation.