



community foundation
Holland/Zeeland Area

Bridge Builder

Winter 2011



60 Years Down...Forever to Go!

May 3rd will mark 60 years of community foundation work in the greater Holland/Zeeland area. That sixty year period includes many significant historic events and milestones. Since its inception the foundation has received \$60 million in gifts, distributed \$33 million in grants and has current assets of just under \$42 million dollars. And we are just beginning. The incredible success of this endeavor is a result of vision, the unequalled generosity of community members and the power of endowment.

We are taking time out this year to celebrate people and events that have brought us to the present. A chance to honor the wonderful community we serve, and to envision the foreseeable future.

Community foundation work began in 1951 with the formation of the Holland Community Foundation, when local community leaders saw the possibility of using philanthropy to fund needed community projects such as the Herrick Public Library Children's Room, Holland Hospital renovations, Holland Child Guidance Center and the procurement of the DeZwaan Windmill from the Netherlands. By 1973, movers and shakers in Zeeland had established the Zeeland Community Foundation. Early Zeeland projects included the acquisition of the Historical Building, lighting for a local softball diamond, donations to parks and Heritage Home. In the early years most gifts to both foundations were collected and expended for current projects. A focus on building a permanent endowment fund began in 1990 with a challenge grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Kellogg offered a \$1,000,000 grant to endow a youth grantmaking program to any foundation that would raise \$2,000,000 in unrestricted endowed funds from their local community. Both the Holland and Zeeland foundations took up the challenge. With the help of part-time staff, the project was successful and in 1991, 20 years ago, two local Youth Advisory Committees were born. (See companion article.)



Early Holland Foundation Leaders:

- Mayor Harry Harrington
- Charles A. French
- Judge Cornelius C. Vander Meulen
- Peter Kromann
- City Attorney O.S. Cross
- Marvin C. Lindeman

Endowment funds are permanent community assets that are invested and grants made from investment growth support both current and future charitable projects. Today, increasing endowment funds is central to our work. Where else does \$60M - \$33M = \$42M? And those permanent assets will continue to grow and be a community resource in perpetuity. We like to say that endowment gifts to the Community Foundation are For good. For ever®.

The watershed event for local community foundation work was the merger of the Holland Community Foundation and the Zeeland Community Foundation in 1996, 15 years ago. (see companion article) Both organizations were strengthened as assets and resources were combined with a focus on shared goals. The respective Boards and Youth Advisory Committees were

integrated. To this day representation from, and service to, both communities is a hallmark of local foundation work and values.

Early Zeeland Foundation Leaders:

- Mel Boonstra
- Randall Dekker
- Bob DenHerder Sr.
- Jack DeWitt
- Frank Hoogland
- Robert Hoover
- Ronald Klamt
- Raymond Schaap
- Adrian Vanden Bosch
- Ruth Wolbrink

Today, the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area provides leadership on community solutions and fosters philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. We advance the common good through grants that work today and gifts that last forever. With growing resources and focused vision, we will continue to work with charitably minded individuals, families and businesses to shape our collective future.

Visit Our New Website!

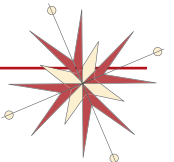
The Foundation has updated its website and includes a fresh new logo. The new website can be found at www.cfhz.org. This format allows the Foundation's news to be easily accessible, updated, shared and spread throughout the community.

Utilizing the latest technology and trends in social media, the Foundation's news can now be accessed and shared on Facebook. The goal of the new web format is to strengthen the Foundation's roots in the Holland/Zeeland area by creating an interconnected web community for both its residents and donors.



Find us on the Web using your mobile device!

General Fund Renamed to the *Vision Fund*



In February 2011, the Community Foundation gave the General Fund a facelift by renaming it the **Vision Fund**. The key word being *vision*; the Foundation believes this name better captures what giving to the general fund is all about. The **Vision Fund** is designed for unrestricted donations, allowing the Foundation to maximize the community impact of your gift where it is most needed.

To donate to the **Vision Fund**, visit the new website at www.cfhz.org. and click on the blue 'Give Today' box.

When Two Became One

On May 1, 1996 the merger between the Holland Community Foundation and the Zeeland Community Foundation was official. The new organization was to be known as The Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area. The board was made up of the sitting trustees of each organization.



Bill Vanderbilt, who had been working part-time for each of the foundations, was instrumental in bringing the two together. Staff at the Council of Michigan Foundations served as a guide and resource.

Bill Vanderbilt

Local volunteer leadership was found in Foundation Presidents Ken Pierce from Holland and Grace Piersma from Zeeland. However, Executive Committee members and trustees from both organizations were actively involved.

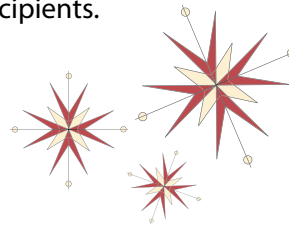


Ken Pierce and Grace Piersma signing the merger.

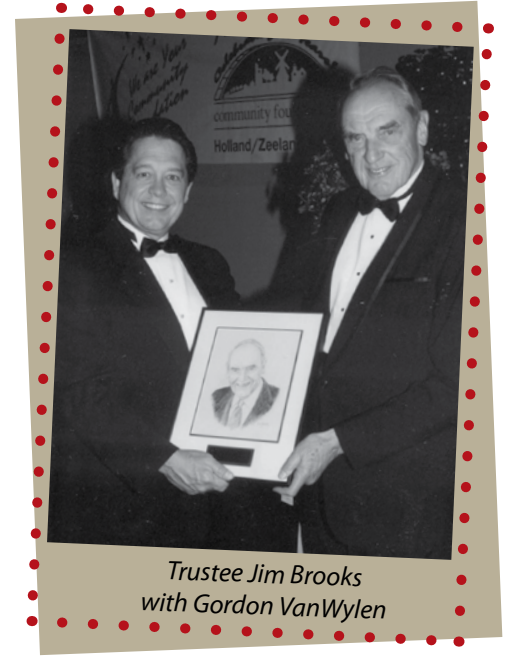
With the merger, Boards and Youth Advisory Committees were joined; and assets were combined into a single portfolio. However, separate funds were created to accept gifts designated for services to Zeeland and to Holland. The merger was also marked by the establishment of the new Greenway and Natural Resources Endowment Fund to support projects in the two communities.

The Foundation's first Community Hall of Fame awards were made in 2001 in honor of the 50th Anniversary and went to Randall Dekker of Zeeland and Gordon Van Wylen of Holland.

To this day services specific to each community are an embedded value and practice of the foundation. Geographic representation is a key consideration in electing new trustees to the board, distributing grants and selecting recognition awards recipients.

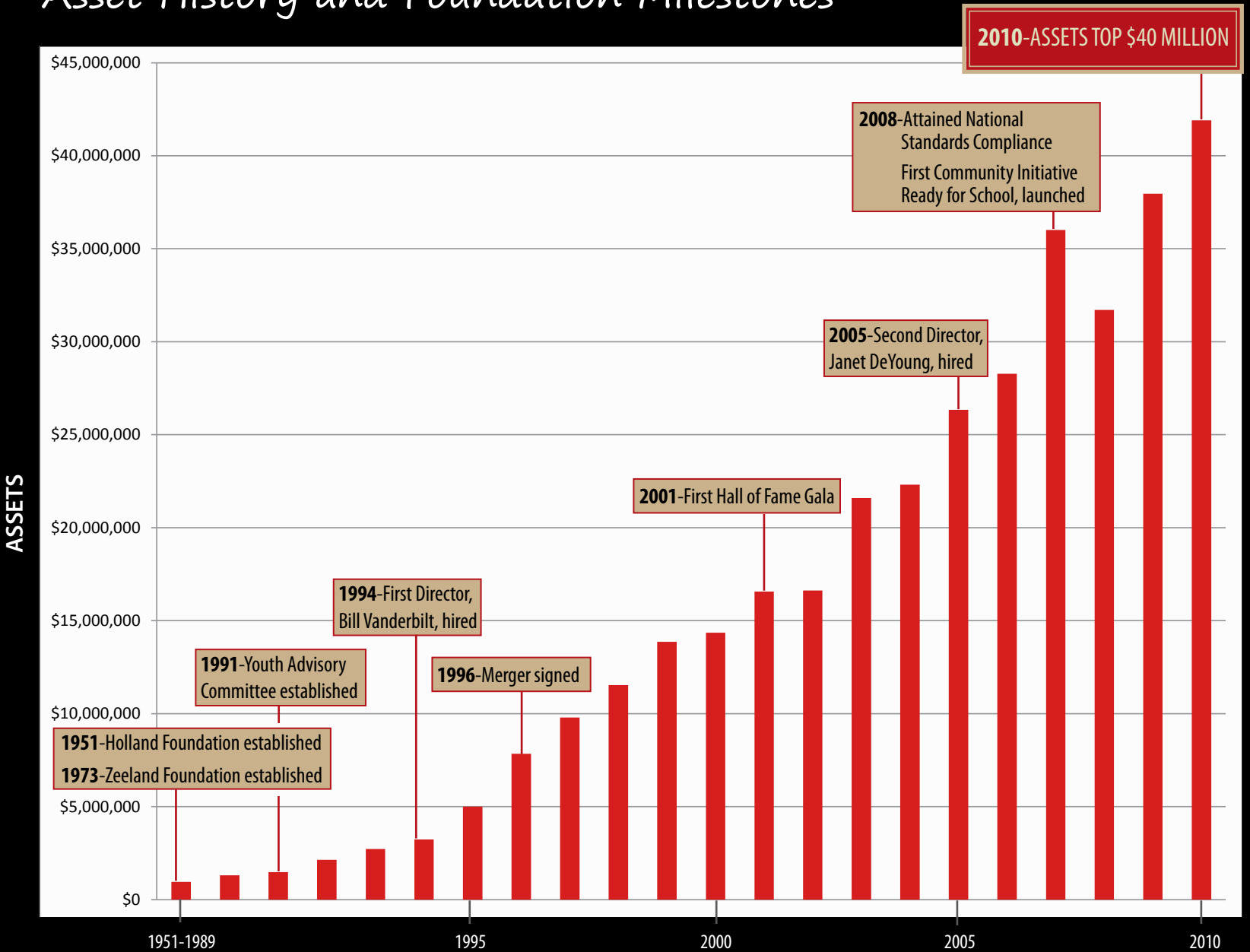


Trustee John Nordstrom with Randy Dekker



Trustee Jim Brooks with Gordon VanWylen

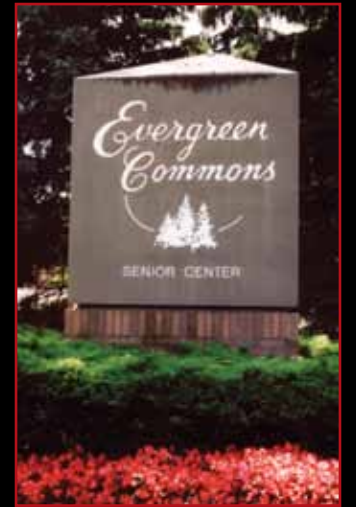
Asset History and Foundation Milestones



Just a Few Community Touchpoints



\$33 million has been given out in grants since 1951!



YAC Celebrates its 20th Year!

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) program was established in 1991 through a challenge grant from the Michigan Community Foundation Youth Project (MCFYP) funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Kellogg Foundation, which was interested in encouraging youth philanthropy programs and growing community foundation assets, offered a \$1,000,000 grant designated for youth grantmaking to each community foundation that would raise \$2,000,000 locally. Both Holland and Zeeland foundations established youth grantmaking programs and took up the Kellogg challenge. Holland was the first to reach the goal in 1996.



Early Zeeland YAC



Early Holland YAC

With the merger of the Holland and Zeeland foundations youth from both Holland and Zeeland schools were represented in the YAC. The Kellogg Foundation allowed the new foundation to complete the Zeeland campaign and by year end 1998 the group qualified for a second \$1 million. Our local YAC is one of the only in the state to receive \$2,000,000 from the Kellogg Foundation.

The YAC made its first grant in 1993 to the Boys and Girls Club for \$1,500. Since then, the YAC has granted over \$1,106,000 to projects and programs that make the Holland/Zeeland area a better place to live for children and youth. Current assets in the two youth funds total \$2,175,000, demonstrating the power of endowments.

The YAC is a group of 18-20 students from our local high schools who are responsible for reviewing funding requests and recommending grants for programs that benefit area youth. The mission of the YAC is to empower young people, involve them in the community and teach them about philanthropy while serving as stewards through granting. YAC members meet once a month during the school year for grantmaking, make site visits to local organizations, and learn about community needs and philanthropy. The YAC is enriched by the unique perspective and experiences that each member brings to the Committee's work.

Since its inception more than 150 high school students have served on the Youth Advisory Committee. Many have continued their involvement in philanthropy following high school graduation.

Board of Trustees

Matthew Lepard, <i>President</i>	Thun Champassak	Haans Mulder
Ann Query, <i>1st V. P.</i>	John Donnelly, Jr.	Judith Smith
Sue Den Herder, <i>2nd V. P.</i>	Eleanor Lopez	Scott Spoelhof
Randy Thelen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jack Marquis	Dan Zwier
Juanita Bocanegra, <i>Secretary</i>	Ritu Mathur	Shane Brandsen, <i>YAC Chair</i>
Taiyoh Afrik, <i>YAC Advisor</i>	Deb Clark Miller	John Nordstrom, <i>Advisor</i>
Char Amante	Nancy Miller	James Watt, <i>Advisor</i>
Lori Bush	Hannes Meyers, Jr.	

Staff

Janet DeYoung, *Executive Director*
 Tim DuMez, *Donor Services Director*
 Soma Khov, *Administrative Assistant*
 Elizabeth Kidd, *Program Director*
 Diana L. Mavis, *Finance Director*
 Gwen M. Petroelje
Communications Director

Youth Advisory Committee

Taiyoh Afrik, <i>YAC Advisor</i>	Megan Israels	Jim Schutt
Robyn Afrik, <i>YAC Advisor</i>	Joseph Leonard	Maddi Smith
Shane Brandsen, <i>Chair</i>	Jonathon Maat	Claire Spoelhof
Derek Postma, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ilana Parach	Dustin Tran
Tim Bloemendaal	Lina Perez	Anna Van Til
Maria DeShaw	Brooke Petzak	Harry Willoughby
John Filcik	Gabriela Reyes	



Janet DeYoung
Executive Director

**The View
from Here**

On Turning 60...

In December I turned 60. It was a not an easy birthday for me. It prompted me to reflect with gratitude the many blessings of my life and on the many silly things I've done...oh, if I had only known then what I know now! But as someone has said, "we are too soon old and too late smart". Turning 60 was also a time to look forward and to face the reality that I do not have another 60 years. I now treasure the days left and think about the legacy I will leave. I'm working on a professional as well as a personal bucket list.

I was struck by how different reaching 60 years is for the Community Foundation. Yes, 60 years is a milestone. Yes, it contains a rich history and great achievements. But the Community Foundation was created to be a permanent institution. Sixty years for the Foundation is just a beginning. And, unlike most nonprofit organizations that were

established to respond to important needs during a specific period in history, the Community Foundation was created to monitor and to respond to ever evolving community needs and changing community priorities.

As I reflect on turning 60, I am humbled by the chances I've had to make the lives of others a little better through my work in various public and charitable organizations. But I have a special appreciation for the opportunity to leave a legacy through my work with, and endowed gifts to, the Community Foundation which will continue to serve the Holland/Zeeland community forever. For the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, the first 60 years is prologue. It is a foundation for the future...and I am honored to play a small role in helping to shape it.

Calendar of Events

Annual Luncheon - Birthday Party	May 25
Scholarship Reception	June 9
Community Celebration	TBD

**Foundation Welcomes New
Administrative Assistant**

This February the foundation team welcomed Chansoma Khov (Soma) on staff as our new Administrative Assistant.

Soma holds a Master's degree in finance from Davenport University and a Bachelor's degree in accounting from National University of Management in Phnom Penh, CAM. Soma brings banking experience as well as volunteer work experience from the Red Cross to the foundation.



Chansoma Khov

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