

# steelcase foundation 2009 annual report

[steelcasefoundation.org](http://steelcasefoundation.org)



An abstract background featuring black ink splatters and drips on a white surface. A large teal rectangle is positioned on the right side of the image, containing text. A small red dot is located on the left side of the teal rectangle, and a small green dot is located on the right side of the teal rectangle.

## To the community partners and friends of the Steelcase Foundation:

When people consider the role of a foundation, they often think of money being dispensed. Granting funds is one function, certainly. But foundations lend far more than financial support to a community.

Foundations work for the common good – **by tapping into knowledge, ideas and resources; by bringing together people who effect change; by facing tough challenges head-on.**

The Steelcase Foundation is involved in strategic thinking and collaboration on big-picture issues, like homelessness, early childhood intervention, and education. We work with organizations to respond to those needs and create lasting change.

Within this report, we profile some of those organizations. Through their stories, you'll see proof that when you work together, wonderful things can happen. Communities can transform from places that struggle to places that succeed.

Kate Pew Wolters  
Board Chair

Susan Broman  
President



## Solution: Coalition to End Homelessness + Foreclosure Response

“In the past, our response to homelessness has focused on short-term emergency placement,” says Janay Brower, coordinator of the **Coalition to End Homelessness**. “But we’ve made some changes in our thinking and actions and seen significant results.”

Those system-wide changes are designed to approach homelessness from a new angle – and end it by 2014. The goal is to shift expenditures toward prevention strategies like rent assistance and providing more affordable housing. For example, it costs \$3,000 to house a family of three in a shelter for one month. That money could instead augment several months of the family’s housing costs, keeping them in stable housing and preventing homelessness.

**Foreclosure Response**, coordinated by Kym Spring, is focused in the same direction, helping to connect residents with community resources to get the help they need to stay in their homes. Kym has seen what abandoned homes can do to a neighborhood. “In addition to the crime and blight empty houses invite, there’s a big impact on the value of nearby properties.” Her data shows that the value of a house within 150 feet of an abandoned property goes down \$7,600, and within 300 feet it’s reduced by \$6,800.

Collaborative community programs like these are helping the dollars targeted toward homelessness make more sense – and get better outcomes. By changing their focus, the Coalition to End Homelessness saw 900 fewer people go through the system in 2009. And Foreclosure Response’s efforts show that their housing counselors saved about 500 families from foreclosure

● “If people don’t have places to live, you can’t build a community,” said Janay. “Everyone should have access to quality, affordable housing.”



issue:  
homelessness





# issue: early childhood

## Solution: First Steps Kent

**Children have the capacity to learn more by their third birthday than during any other time in their life.** Yet so many kids in Kent County are not getting the support and services they need during this period. The result? “Too many of our children arrive at the kindergarten door without the skills they need to be successful – social, emotional, and cognitive skills,” says Rebekah Fennell, executive director for First Steps. And studies show that children who start school behind, tend to stay behind.

**First Steps** is attempting to change that. The non-profit organization is leading a community collaboration to develop a system of support services for young children and their families. That collaboration includes the Steelcase Foundation as well as other foundations and organizations in the area whose leaders came together to take a strategic look at how to address the problem.

Those discussions have brought to life pilot programs like the **Children's Healthcare Access Program (CHAP)**, which is designed to make quality primary care more accessible to kids who are on Medicaid. With the partnership of local healthcare organizations, CHAP has opened up an additional 1,400 Medicaid spots within private practices in the area. As a result, emergency room usage and in-patient hospital admissions are declining.

**“These programs are an investment in early childhood,”** says Rebekah. “We’re bringing people to the table to help strengthen the coordination and quality of the services our community can provide.”



# issue: student success

## Solution: Kent School Services Network

Sometimes a child is late for class because she doesn't have an alarm clock. Sometimes a child can't get to school because his single mother has a newborn baby and the sidewalks are covered in snow. Sometimes a parent loses a job and everything changes.

Everyday obstacles like these keep kids from being successful in school. Removing those obstacles is the goal of **Kent School Services Network** (KSSN). The organization was formed through collaboration around ways "to bring school and community together to support student achievement," says Carol Paine-McGovern, director of KSSN.

In seven schools in Kent County, a Community School Coordinator, a Family Independence Specialist, a nurse and other community partners are in place, working to provide an array of services for children and their families. The intent is **to have each school become the hub of the neighborhood** – a place where students and their parents feel comfortable and where they know they can find support.

With an evaluation plan built in from the beginning, the group has been able to assess KSSN's progress since its inception in 2006. In all of the schools, MEAP scores are showing improvements and absenteeism rates are dropping. And with the involvement of local leaders and school personnel, KSSN is able to tweak things as they go along, learning from experiences and input. **"In this community, the initiatives that survive are those that bring everyone to the table,"** says Carol.





## issue: basic needs


### Solution: Essential Needs Task Force Fund

What happens when 18 foundations in the Grand Rapids area pool their resources for the benefit of local people in need? **They channel their money into a \$2-million fund that helps to do immediate good.**

In late 2008, the Steelcase Foundation joined with other foundations to discuss the increasing demand of basic needs in Kent County. They asked: what can we do collectively? “With the traditional grant process, it can take a long time to research the best place to put your money,” says Kate Luckert Schmid, program director for the fund. “The foundation leaders wanted to do this strategically and have the money go the places with the highest need.”

They decided to partner with the existing Essential Needs Task Force to develop the temporary fund. The fund was set up to accept requests from organizations throughout the area, focusing on food security, housing, transportation, and utility assistance. The grant process was streamlined through a simple online application and approval came through a special committee.

The fund dispensed 100% of the dollars throughout the community and that money went to help food pantries build capacity, to add staffing at housing agencies and to improve processes within the homeless system, among other things. **“There was immediate need and those dollars helped to fill that gap,”** says Kate.



# issue: academic performance

## Solution: Centers of Innovation

When enrollment is declining and academic achievement isn't meeting expectations, a school system has to look for some innovative solutions. The administrators at Grand Rapids Public Schools decided to approach the problem in a collaborative fashion – partnering with local foundations, educational experts, and business leaders.

Together, the group explored alternatives to current programs and studied educational reform models from cities like Chicago and New York. Combining that learning with proven best practices, they developed the **Centers of Innovation**.

“The centers are designed to increase achievement and offer more opportunities and choices for students and parents,” says Mary Jo Kuhlman, executive director of Organizational Learning for GRPS. “They’re also intended to foster the public/private partnership.”

In fact, the businesses that have teamed with the school system are very involved in the centers, which focus on specific industries. **They’re helping to define curriculum and setting industry standards to prepare students for careers in fields like health sciences, business, engineering, and design and construction.**

The first center opened its doors in the fall of 2008 and five others have been launched since then. Based on enrollment applications, the schools seem to be headed in the right direction, even drawing applicants from outside of the district. “This is a chance for our students to build relationships and get exposure to career possibilities,” says Mary Jo. “They’re doing real-life work that supports their learning.”

## 2009 Grant Recipients

### Project Description

Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)

Recipient's Website

---

# Arts and Culture

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$837,500 / FUTURE: \$340,000

8 GRANTEES:



### Actors' Theatre

Technology Upgrade

\$5,000

[www.actorstheatregrandrapids.com](http://www.actorstheatregrandrapids.com)

### Grand Rapids Art Museum

Program Support

\$182,500

[www.gramonline.org](http://www.gramonline.org)

### Grand Rapids Ballet Company

Dancers' Theatre Series

\$50,000

[www.grballet.com](http://www.grballet.com)

### Grand Rapids Symphony

Underwriting Music Director's Chair

\$170,000

[www.grsymphony.org](http://www.grsymphony.org)

### Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities, Inc.

Capacity Building

\$25,000

[www.gaah.org](http://www.gaah.org)

### Library of Michigan Foundation

2009 Notable Books

\$5,000

[www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)

### Opera Grand Rapids

Program support

\$50,000 / Future: \$40,000

[www.operagr.com](http://www.operagr.com)

### Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts

"Where Art Happens" capital campaign

\$350,000 / Future: \$300,000

[www.uica.org](http://www.uica.org)



2009 Grant Recipients

Project Description

Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)

Recipient's Website

---

# Community & Economic Development



GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$322,500 / FUTURE: \$165,000

8 GRANTEES:

Caledonia Friends and Patrons  
of the Library

The Next Chapter campaign

Future: \$75,000

[www.newcaledonialibrary.org](http://www.newcaledonialibrary.org)

Community Foundation of the  
Holland/Zeland Area

MSU Bioeconomy Institute

\$75,000

[www.cfhz.org](http://www.cfhz.org)

Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids, Inc.

LEED Bonus

\$22,500

[www.dwellingplacegr.org](http://www.dwellingplacegr.org)

Inner City Christian Federation  
“Pillars for Opportunity”

capital campaign

\$50,000

[www.iccf.org](http://www.iccf.org)

Lighthouse Communities Inc.

Lighthouse Development Center –

Incubating Change, Nurturing

Community

\$100,000

[www.lcgr.net](http://www.lcgr.net)

Lowell Area Recreation Authority

Lowell Area Trailway

Future: \$50,000

[www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)

Neighborhood Ventures

Operation Uptown &

Southtown Forward

\$40,000 / Future: \$25,000

[www.neighborhoodventures.org](http://www.neighborhoodventures.org)

West Michigan Strategic Alliance

West Michigan Regional Indicators

\$35,000 / Future: \$15,000

[www.wm-alliance.org](http://www.wm-alliance.org)

## 2009 Grant Recipients

Project Description

Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)

Recipient's Website

---

# Health

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$98,334 / FUTURE: \$60,000

2 GRANTEES:

### Hospice of Michigan

MSU College of Human Medicine  
Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative  
Care

\$40,000 / Future: \$60,000

[www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org)

### University of Michigan

Motor Behavior and Pediatric  
Disabilities Treadmill Training for  
Infants with Down Syndrome and  
Cerebral Palsy

\$58,334

[www.umich.edu](http://www.umich.edu)

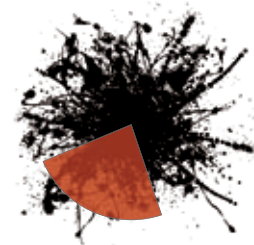




# Education

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$989,498 / FUTURE: \$415,000

## 13 GRANTEES:



Aquinas College  
"Mind, Body, Spirit" capital campaign  
\$200,000  
[www.aquinas.edu](http://www.aquinas.edu)

Athens State University  
Foundation (AL)  
Scholarships for dependents  
of Steelcase employees  
\$4,000  
[www.athens.edu](http://www.athens.edu)

Calhoun Community College  
Foundation (AL)  
Scholarships for dependents  
of Steelcase employees  
\$4,000  
[www.calhoun.edu](http://www.calhoun.edu)

Davenport University Foundation  
Scholarships for dependents of  
Steelcase employees  
\$4,000  
[www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu)

Grand Rapids Community College  
Foundation  
Scholarships for dependents  
of Steelcase employees  
\$6,000  
[www.grcc.edu](http://www.grcc.edu)

Grand Rapids Community College  
Foundation  
"Open Door Campaign"  
advancement campaign  
\$250,000  
[www.grcc.edu](http://www.grcc.edu)

Grand Rapids Student Advancement  
Foundation  
"Musical instruments – providing tools  
and nurturing talent"  
\$25,000 / Future: \$15,000  
[www.grsaf.org](http://www.grsaf.org)

Grand Valley State University  
Scholarships for dependents  
of Steelcase employees  
\$8,000  
[www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu)

Illinois Institute of Technology (IL)  
Grand Rapids education  
research project  
\$29,498  
[www.id.itt.edu](http://www.id.itt.edu)

Kendall College of Art & Design  
Scholarships for dependents  
of Steelcase employees  
\$5,000  
[www.kcad.edu](http://www.kcad.edu)

Kent Intermediate School District  
Kent School Services Network  
\$200,000  
[www.kentisd.org/kssn](http://www.kentisd.org/kssn)

Michigan State University  
MSU West Michigan Medical School  
\$200,000 / Future: \$400,000  
[www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)

National Merit Scholarship  
Corporation (IL)  
National Merit Scholarships  
\$54,000  
[www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

## 2009 Grant Recipients

### Project Description

Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)

Recipient's Website

---

# Environment

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$495,000 / FUTURE: \$575,000

## 5 GRANTEES:

### Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Successful Beginnings

\$25,000 / Future: \$25,000

[www.friendsofgrparks.org](http://www.friendsofgrparks.org)

### Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, Inc.

Translating Impact into Sustainability

\$20,000

[www.healthyhomescoalition.org](http://www.healthyhomescoalition.org)

### John Ball Zoological Society

Phase I: Restore the Roar

\$250,000 / Future: \$500,000

[www.johnballzoosociety.org](http://www.johnballzoosociety.org)

### The Nature Conservancy

"Saving the Last Great Places  
in Michigan – A Campaign for  
Conservation"

\$100,000

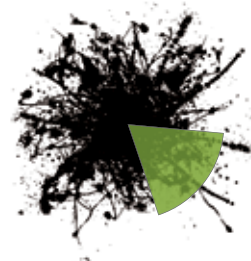
[www.nature.org/michigan](http://www.nature.org/michigan)

### West Michigan Horticultural Society, Inc.

Maintaining the Masterpiece: A  
Campaign for the Second Decade

\$100,000 / Future: \$50,000

[www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)





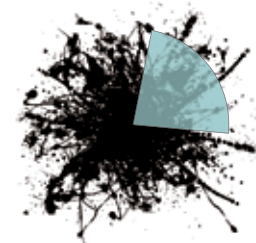
2009 Grant Recipients  
Project Description  
Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)  
Recipient's Website

---

# Human Service

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$1,139,184 / FUTURE: \$235,300

18 GRANTEES:



**Arbor Circle Corporation**  
Challenge grants  
\$20,000 / Future: \$20,000  
[www.arborcircle.org](http://www.arborcircle.org)

**Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council**  
Capacity building  
\$25,000  
[www.campfireusawmc.org](http://www.campfireusawmc.org)

**Camp Henry**  
Camper scholarships  
\$8,500 / Future: \$17,000  
[www.camphenry.org](http://www.camphenry.org)

**CASA of Kent County, Inc.**  
Capacity building  
\$15,000  
[www.casakentco.org](http://www.casakentco.org)

**Gilda's Club Grand Rapids**  
Childrens' Grief Program pilot project  
\$25,000 / Future: \$15,000  
[www.gildasclubgr.org](http://www.gildasclubgr.org)

**Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids**  
"Once and For All – Building a Self-Governed Life"  
\$100,000 / Future: \$75,000  
[www.goodwillgr.org](http://www.goodwillgr.org)

**Grand Rapids Community Foundation**  
Essential Needs Task Force Fund  
\$100,000  
[www.grfoundation.org](http://www.grfoundation.org)

**Heart of West Michigan United Way**  
2009 campaign  
\$633,005  
[www.waybetterunitedway.org](http://www.waybetterunitedway.org)

**Home Repair Services of Kent County**  
Increase "Front Door Friends"  
\$20,000 / Future: \$10,000  
[www.homerepairservices.org](http://www.homerepairservices.org)

**Legal Aid of Western Michigan**  
Challenge grants  
\$17,500  
[www.legalaidwestmich.org](http://www.legalaidwestmich.org)

**Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services**  
Ottawa Hills High School – Pine Rest Partnership for Success  
\$20,000 / Future: \$20,000  
[www.pinerest.org](http://www.pinerest.org)

**Safe Haven Ministries, Inc.**  
"Saving Lives, Building Hope"  
capital campaign  
\$25,000 / Future: \$25,000  
[www.safehavenministries.org](http://www.safehavenministries.org)

**Toronto Windfall Clothing Support Service (CD)**  
Expansion of Fundraising Department  
\$22,800 / Future: \$13,300  
[www.windfallbasics.com](http://www.windfallbasics.com)

**United Methodist Community House**  
Capacity building  
\$40,000  
[www.umchousegr.org](http://www.umchousegr.org)

**United Way of Athens and Limestone County (AL)**  
2009 campaign  
\$30,384  
[www.unitedwayofathenslimestone.org](http://www.unitedwayofathenslimestone.org)

**United Way of Greater High Point, Inc. (NC)**  
2009 campaign  
\$16,995  
[www.unitedwayhpn.org](http://www.unitedwayhpn.org)

**Widowed Persons Service**  
Capacity Building  
Future: \$20,000  
[www.wpsgrandrapidsmi.com](http://www.wpsgrandrapidsmi.com)

**Young Men's Christian Association of Grand Rapids**  
Mid City Adventure Club, Summer camper scholarship program and Search Institute Asset Training  
\$20,000 / Future: \$20,000  
[www.grymca.org](http://www.grymca.org)

## 2009 Grant Recipients

### Project Description

Grant Payment Amount (future payment amounts noted as applicable)

Recipient's Website

---

# Other

GRANT PAYMENT TOTALS: \$81,000 / FUTURE: \$95,000

6 GRANTEES:

Association of Fundraising  
Professionals – West Michigan  
Chapter  
National Philanthropy Day 2009  
\$500  
[www.afpwm.org](http://www.afpwm.org)

Council of Michigan Foundations  
Office of Foundation Liaison  
\$20,000  
[www.michiganfoundations.org/ofl](http://www.michiganfoundations.org/ofl)

Council of Michigan Foundations  
2008/2009 membership dues  
and conference  
\$19,600  
[www.michiganfoundations.org](http://www.michiganfoundations.org)

Grand Rapids Community Foundation  
Nonprofit Technical Assistance Fund  
Future: \$30,000  
[www.nptafund.org](http://www.nptafund.org)

Grantmakers for Education (OR)  
2009 membership dues  
\$900  
[www.edfunders.org](http://www.edfunders.org)

Junior Achievement of the  
Michigan Great Lakes, Inc.  
Integrating Economic Education  
and the Workplace  
\$40,000 / Future: \$65,000  
[www.westmichigan.ja.org](http://www.westmichigan.ja.org)





---

# 2009 Grand Totals

\$3,963,016 / Future: \$1,885,300



## Matching Gifts

The Steelcase Foundation also partners with Steelcase employees, retirees and directors by matching their gifts to arts and culture, education and environmental and conservation programs. The maximum contribution is \$10,000 yearly. The amount can be a combination of gifts to a number of different organizations.

**In 2009, the Foundation provided \$432,566.03 in matching funds** that included \$345,534.83 for education; \$50,293.10 for arts and culture; and \$36,738.00 for environment and conservation programs. Matching gift application forms are available from the Foundation office. For a detailed list of matching gift recipients, please visit us online at [steelcasefoundation.org](http://steelcasefoundation.org).

# Statements of Financial Position

YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30,	2009	2008
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -
Investments, at fair value (Notes 1 and 2)	82,029,885	70,141,536
Federal excise tax refundable	40,000	36,194
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 82,069,885</b>	<b>\$ 70,177,730</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities		
Grants payable (Note 3)	\$ 1,856,042	\$ 4,521,833
Deferred federal excise tax (Note 4)	468,924	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 2,324,966</b>	<b>\$ 4,521,833</b>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 79,744,919	\$ 65,655,897
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 82,069,885</b>	<b>\$ 70,177,730</b>

# Statements of Unrestricted Activities

YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30,	2009	2008
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Cash contribution	\$ -	\$ 500,000
In-kind contributions (Note 1)	329,726	383,969
Investment income:		
Dividends	1,209,201	13,158,029
Realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investments	15,118,000	(59,579,254)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 16,656,927</b>	<b>\$(45,537,256)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Grants and matching gifts (Note 3)	\$ 1,729,791	\$ 6,435,409
Investment management and agency fees (Note 1)	20,000	20,000
Provisions for federal excise tax (Note 4):		
Current	19,464	213,651
Deferred	468,924	(92,866)
General and administrative (Note 1)	329,726	383,969
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,567,905</b>	<b>\$ 6,960,163</b>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 14,089,022	\$ (52,497,419)
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 65,655,897</b>	<b>\$ 118,153,316</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 79,744,919</b>	<b>\$ 65,655,897</b>

*A complete set of audited financial statements will be provided upon request.*



# Steelcase

Steelcase Foundation

P.O. Box 1967/GH-4E  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1967

P: 616.246.4695

F: 616.475.2200

● [steelcasefoundation.org](http://steelcasefoundation.org)

03/10 ©2010 Steelcase Inc. All rights reserved.

