

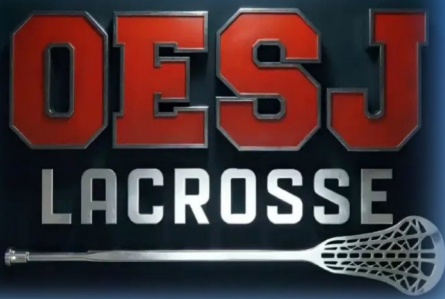


YOUR COMMUNITY FUND AT WORK

Planting the seed for a better tomorrow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING
SPRING 2026

SJACF Scores Big: New Youth Lacrosse Program Comes to St. Johns



St. Johns Area Community Fund is proud to announce a grant supporting the launch of a new youth lacrosse program for students in grades 3-8, ensuring that local students have access to lacrosse opportunities locally. Funds from the SJACF grant will be used to purchase essential equipment, including helmets, gloves, goggles and field supplies that can be made available to players at no cost, helping to make lacrosse accessible and affordable for all interested students.

"This is an exciting step forward for youth athletics in St. Johns," said SJACF President, Ed Jackson. "By fully funding this request, we are removing barriers and creating new opportunities for students to grow, compete, and thrive." The program has already generated strong interest, with 38 boys and girls in grades 3-8 expected to participate in the inaugural 2026 season.

Organizers Gayle Frisbie (Secretary, OESJ Lacrosse Club) and Wade Peele (President, OESJ Lacrosse Club) anticipate continued growth, with projections reaching up to 68 participants as the program expands and builds connections at the high school level. Beyond athletics, the youth lacrosse program is expected to provide meaningful benefits, including improved physical and mental well-being, character development, teamwork, discipline, and potential pathways to future collegiate opportunities. Community members interested in learning more about the St. Johns Area Community Fund or supporting future initiatives are encouraged to visit SJACF.org or follow us on Facebook.

Homelessness in Clinton County

A new organization, Hope Works Mid Michigan, is stepping up to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our region. In partnership with St. Vincent de Paul and Beacon of Hope, the group is working to make a meaningful impact for more than 60 local individuals and families across Clinton County. SJACF is encouraged by this collaborative effort to address local housing needs. Board members Kate Upton and Marcia Peterson are currently attending Hope Works meetings to learn more and explore ways SJACF may be able to support this important work. We look forward to sharing future updates as this partnership continues to grow and make a difference in our community.



Board Spotlight: Ed Jackson, President

A lifelong member of the St. Johns community, Ed Jackson brings both deep roots and a strong sense of purpose to his role as Board President of the St. Johns Area Community Fund. Raised in rural St. Johns, Ed returned home after his college years in East Lansing and Madison, Wisconsin, and has remained committed to the place he's always called home. Ed is known throughout the community as someone who shows up, consistently giving his time, leadership, and energy to make St. Johns a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Through his professional work, he has built meaningful, lasting relationships with local families who trust him for guidance and support. His passion for connection and community impact continues to drive the mission of SJACF forward, helping create opportunities that strengthen and support the people of St. Johns every day.



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New 2026 Tax Break for Charitable Giving

In tax year 2026 you may deduct \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly) of cash contributions even if you don't itemize. This deduction is available in addition to any Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs. QCDs work out a little better but the required age is 70 1/2. Contact your tax preparer for specific advice.



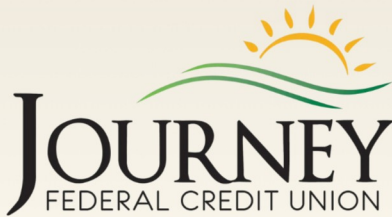
Gathering for Good: Celebrating Connection in St. Johns



This fall, neighbors, partners, and community champions will gather for an evening centered on connection, collaboration, and shared purpose. The Capital Region Community Foundation, in partnership with the SJACF, is proud to host the Biennial 2026 Community Leadership Reception on October 22, 2026, at The Hills Corner Pub (formerly The Heist). While many events focus on fundraising, this gathering is intentionally different. It's about people, bringing together those who care deeply about the St. Johns community to build relationships, share ideas, and continue the important work of strengthening the place we all call home.

The evening is made possible by generous sponsors whose support reflects a true commitment to community. A special thank you to our early sponsors whose generosity is already helping bring this evening to life: Journey Federal Credit Union (Community Sponsor), Harr's Jewelry, Chasco, Bruno's Bar & Grill and St. Johns Business and Tax Service (Premier Sponsors), Allaby & Brewbaker, and Butler Financial (Supporting Sponsors).

Together, these sponsors make it possible to host an evening that is less about transactions and more about relationships, where conversations spark ideas, and ideas lead to lasting change. As the date approaches, the Foundation looks forward to welcoming a room full of individuals who are passionate about giving back, lifting others up, and continuing to build a strong and connected St. Johns community.



Together We Made It Happen: 2025 Grants

Here's how your support created real change in our community last year.

- \$2,000 SJ Honor Guard - New winter uniform jackets for veterans
- \$1,460 SJ Boys Basketball - Uniforms for Peter's Sunny Day Foundation
- \$1,000 Giving Paws - Tales with Tails - Mental Health and Literacy
- \$5,516 SJ Call-in Coalition - SJ High School Youth Action Committee - Labyrinth in City Park
- \$2,000 Elevated Equine Assisted Therapy - Wheelchair Accessible Carriage
- \$1,350 SJ Public Schools - Student Referee Prep Courses (MHSAA)
- \$4,000 SJ High School Youth Action Committee - Student Needs

Small gifts, big impact—scan the QR code to donate today

