

# IMPACT REPORT



Yakima Valley  
Community Foundation

2021

Mural in Wapato



# A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



Sharon F. Miracle



Cynthia Juarez



Kristin Kershaw-Snapp

If 2020 was managing through crisis, 2021 is best described as defining and adapting to a new normal. Early in the year, we continued to see the impacts of pandemic shutdowns on families and businesses, and on the nonprofit organizations trying to meet the needs that the government cannot or is unable to address. Fortunately, the generosity of many philanthropic-minded individuals and foundations established our Resilience and Response Fund with a sizable pool of funds in 2020. The funds allowed us to respond quickly and effectively to needs and later transition to helping nonprofits build capacity and adapt to their new normal—a new normal which included technology and staffing challenges, increased demand for mental health services, food, housing support, training, and more. Our goal, like counterparts across the nation, was and is to learn from the crisis to ensure our nonprofit sector serving community is better prepared and more resilient to meet needs going forward.

Our board of directors and staff spent considerable time in the fall of 2021 looking back at our progress and challenges. Together we discussed opportunities and our dreams for the future of the Foundation and how we will engage and support our Central Washington communities. We set a detailed plan into action to strengthen our organizational culture, our investment portfolio options, and our service to and interactions with our community including donors, funders, volunteers, grantees and the people they serve – our partners who ensure investments in the community we know and love make a meaningful and measurable impact.

***Thank you for helping us help others. We look forward to working with you as we put this pandemic behind us and build a stronger Yakima Valley.***

**In gratitude and community service,**

Sharon F. Miracle, President/CEO

Cynthia Juarez, Chair

Kristin Kershaw-Snapp, Past Chair



# THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS

## 2021 SNAPSHOT (JAN 1, 2021 - DEC 31, 2021)

Total Assets:

**\$80.9M**

Total Grants:

**\$4.6M**

Total Contributions:

**\$3.6M**

### Total assets by funds

Designated funds: \$436,000

Agency funds: \$6.9M

Founders fund: \$24.8M

Donor-Advised funds: \$10.3M

Field of Interest funds: \$4.3M

Scholarship funds: \$31.9M

Other: \$2.26M



**111**

funds under  
management

**130**

nonprofit organizations  
supported in 2021

**Amount granted from Donor-Advised funds in 2021:**

**\$1.3M – 117 grants to 67 different nonprofit organizations.**

# INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

Total amount of grants distributed in the last ten years: **\$35,033,202**

GRANTED WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS: \$19.44M

## Investment Performance

1-year Annualized

**9.13%**

3-year Annualized

**16.3%**

5-year Annualized

**11.10%**

## MOLLIE MONROE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Mollie Monroe Davis Scholarship was started in 2008 when Mollie Davis, a Yakima resident, passed away leaving an educational bequest of \$20 million to fund two and four-year scholarships to benefit students of Yakima County. The Yakima Rotary Trust was named the administrator of the scholarship program and the Yakima Valley Community Foundation manages the funds.

**Over the past 13 years, the fund has grown to over \$30 million while distributing nearly \$10 million for two- and four-year scholarships to Yakima Valley students.**



# HOW TO OPEN A DONOR-ADVISED FUND AT YVCF

**It is easy to create a Donor-Advised Fund in your name, your family's or in the name or memory of a loved one.**

1. Complete the simple donor agreement form available online by scanning the QR code or just call (509) 457-7616.
2. Make an initial gift of at least \$1,000 to establish the fund. Receive a tax deduction at the time the fund is established and each time you make an additional contribution to the fund.



## AFTER THE FUND IS ESTABLISHED

- Add to the fund at any time and in any amount.
- Friends or family may make tax-deductible gifts to the fund.
- Make grant disbursement recommendations to support your favorite charities in Yakima, across the country, and in some cases internationally. You choose whether awards should be acknowledged in the name of the fund or anonymously.
- Track fund growth and manage your charitable giving online via your personal portal, available 24/7.

**Donations of appreciated stock may help avoid capital gains taxes.**



**In 2021, YVCF made the strategic decision to expand staff to include a Director of Donor Advising. In early 2022, YVCF welcomed Heidi Pelletier. In this role, Heidi is available to assist donors with grant recommendations, trusts, family philanthropy, and legacy giving, and to offer guidance to nonprofits on growing funds and endowments. Heidi brings 15 years of experience to this role, having worked with individuals, families, foundations, and corporations at top Washington non-profits.**



THE SMITH FAMILY

# MAKING AN IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS



The Smith Family at the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

**"We were very inspired by what our kids wanted to do in the community and how they wanted to make an impact. From the beginning, we made it our family fund, and the decisions on where to put our money would be decided upon as a family."**

**– Cheryl Smith**

"We chose the Yakima Valley Community Foundation because they have such a diverse footprint in the Valley," Cheryl said. "Through them as a partner, we could direct money toward health care and the arts... there was such a broad range with the Yakima Valley Community Foundation that we felt could touch on all the different areas that are near and dear to each of our hearts."

Altruism and passion embody the Smith family who have been flourishing in the Yakima Valley for over 40 years. Cheryl and Mike Smith, local business owners, are the parents of three driven children (Patrick, Kevin and Meghann) who have since married and started their own legacies with their spouses (Colleen, Anna and Kevin). The three siblings are 4th generation hop farmers with crops first planted in 1932. Along the way, the Smiths recognized that they could give back to the community that has nourished and supported their family by coming together and being strategic in how they donated funds.

This led Cheryl and Mike to start a Donor-Advised Fund with the Yakima Community Foundation for the entire family to give back to the community in a meaningful and impactful way. Choosing where to direct their support required careful thought, as the Smith family wanted to do the most good in areas where it was especially needed.

Cheryl's daughter-in-law, Colleen Smith, agrees that the family's interests are varied and best reflected through the Community Foundation's charitable flexibility.

"I think that because we do have some good diversity through the family in our careers – we're involved in agriculture, food and beverage, medicine, and education – we all see these things, what needs to happen and how we could possibly help in this community, and we have those conversations as a family. Then, we make decisions from there," Colleen said.

Colleen adds, "The Community Foundation is a good way to be more strategic about giving. They lay it out very clearly for our family to see where our money will do the most good in the areas we're passionate about."

For other family members, a love for the Yakima Valley grew from life experience. Meghann Quinn left at 18 for the University of Washington, then moved back 10 years later to start Bale Breaker Brewing Company.

"Just seeing how Yakima's changed over the last 20 years and being able to know that we can be a part of that change and make Yakima a better place – that was one of the big things that made us start Bale Breaker," said Meghann. "But there's a lot of other areas in our community that still need help and different things that the brewery on its own can't do. So being able to have our family in a position to support different causes can better the community for the people who live here and visit here. Really just making this a desirable place to live and visit."

Since opening their Donor-Advised Fund in 2019, The Smith Family Fund has accelerated and supported the work of 18 different nonprofits in the Yakima Valley. Thank you to the Smith Family for choosing YVCF as your philanthropic partner.





# SUPPORTING A RESILIENT YAKIMA VALLEY

Across the United States and here in Yakima, the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated inequities for communities of color, the rural and low-income. Working in tandem with the United Way of Central Washington and the Latino Community Fund, YVCF established the Yakima Valley Resilience and Response Fund. The aim was to serve as a flexible source of funding to support both the immediate and longer-term needs of Yakima and Kittitas County community-based organizations. Designed to complement the work of public health officials, medical providers, businesses, and governments, the fund aimed to expand local capacity to address the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

## **Immediate needs funded:**

- Housing stability
- Services for people facing homelessness
- Medical care for vulnerable populations
- Physical and behavioral healthcare
- Emergency food programs
- PPE and basic supplies including diapers and formula
- Technology to support vital services

Longer-term needs were funded, such as financial assistance to reestablish programs paused during the pandemic, recruitment and training of new programmatic staff, replacement of revenue from canceled fundraisers, and strategic planning for future disasters.

Thank you to the many residents and neighbors across the state who donated to this fund during our community's time of need. Your support undoubtedly saved lives.







Staff and volunteers at Toppenish Community Chest

# RESILIENCE & RESPONSE FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**In 2021, more than 37 grants were made from this fund such as:**

**Toppenish Community Chest** – \$30,000 went to purchasing a van to distribute emergency food and supplies to seniors and other economically vulnerable clients.

**APOYO** – \$15,000 for emergency support was donated to purchase additional food and supplies for clients.

**Dispute Resolution Center of Kittitas and Yakima** – \$62,500 grant to support hiring staff to facilitate community listening sessions that focused on understanding both the immediate and long-term effects of COVID on economically vulnerable populations in our community with a focus on food, healthcare and employment.

**Garden Village Senior Living** – \$25,000 grant to purchase an HVAC unit for their COVID-19 Isolation and Observation unit.

**Catholic Charities** – \$15,000 grant to reach parishioners with vital COVID-19 information from a trusted source.

TOTAL  
RESILIENCE  
FUND  
GRANTED  
TO DATE:  
**\$2.163M**

## PROGRAMS: INVESTING IN CHILDREN

**The Investing in Children Coalition** is an early learning collective of over 35 agencies working together to facilitate equitable access to high-quality early learning in the Yakima and Kittitas counties so that all children are equally ready for success in school and life. The Coalition, part of a statewide network of coalitions known as Washington Communities for Children, represents work in early learning, K-12, health care, human services, higher education, and community advocacy.

Now in its 10th year, the Coalition is fiscally sponsored by YVCF, which provides staff and administrative support to the work. "The incredible networks in this coalition are the product of a decade of relationship-building," says Lindsay Boswell, Director of Grants and Programs for YVCF and Regional Coordinator for the Coalition. "These relationships make it possible to work on shared projects, mobilize quickly when advocacy or funding opportunities arise, and support each other's work in a way that keeps the needs of families at the center."

One such opportunity came through a Child Care Partnership grant from the WA State Department of Commerce. The grant aimed to expand access to high-quality childcare through community-based partnerships, making it a perfect fit for the Coalition. "This grant was an opportunity to collaborate in supporting childcare providers in the valley," says Anastasia Sanchez, early learning director for the Toppenish School District and a key partner in this grant, "[childcare providers] are a critical part of our early learning infrastructure."

Childcare providers, mainly women of color, provide critical services to families, yet the COVID-19 pandemic shed light on how under-resourced providers in the Yakima Valley are. As a result, the Child Care Partnership project focused on providing support to Spanish-speaking family childcare providers in Buena, Toppenish, Wapato, and Zillah. Through a series of listening sessions held in Spanish, providers voiced a need for basic technology, such as computers, to help them maintain their business.

One of the participating providers was Maria Carriedo, owner of Busy Bee's Child Development Center in Toppenish. "It was a really big help," Maria said about participating in the project, "the support was seriously needed at that time because of the pandemic. In those days, technology was heavily needed for Zoom meetings and to finish classes. [The project] was very beneficial to me not just because of the support I received, but also because of the time I got to spend with other fellow providers. It had been a long time since we had seen each other."





## CHILDCARE PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

As a young mother, Maria Carriedo was very familiar with the many challenges working parents face while trying to raise their children. For many years, Maria juggled between long working days, pursuing an education, and showing up for her three children. During this time, Maria learned she wanted to make a difference in the lives of working parents like her and began working toward opening her childcare center in Toppenish, Washington.

On October 18, 2018, after years of hard work and dedication - Maria's dream came true. "Busy Bee's does not exist just to take care of children," Maria said. "Busy Bee's supports the community, parents, and children." Located in the heart of a robust agricultural community, Busy Bee's cares for children from infancy to 6 years old.

Of her calling, Maria said, "I don't want to say I'm the best childcare provider, nor that I do this job better than anyone else in the world, but what I can do, I do it with love." That love was especially apparent during the pandemic when childcare became a more vital resource than ever before. "You have to be flexible and empathetic," Maria said. "After this time of the pandemic, empathy is needed from people."

Maria's love for supporting families and her community extends far beyond just the tots in her care. She also helps young adults gain work experience through placements at Busy Bee's and encourages them to further their education.



Maria Carriedo at Busy Bee's

## DECADE OF **PARTNERSHIP**

The Child Care Partnership project involved several longtime coalition partners: the Toppenish School District Early Learning Program, ESD 105, Catholic Charities Serving Central WA and Child Care Aware of Central WA, the Yakima Valley Community Foundation, and a childcare provider hired as a consultant for her expertise. All of these Coalition partners served as the leadership team for this project. The entire project was only six months, but Coalition members were able to mobilize quickly.

The series of listening sessions for providers highlighted that one of the largest barriers for family providers is computer access for administrative work at their childcare centers. With \$48,000 in funding from the Washington Department of Commerce, the project was able to provide computers, printers, and Microsoft Office software for all 32 childcare providers in the geographic area of this program. The second round of the Child Care Partnership Grants will focus on providers in Granger and Mabton.

**Learn more at [investinginchildrenwa.org](https://investinginchildrenwa.org)**

## PROGRAMS: **ACT SIX**



Andrea Ceja at Heritage University

Act Six is a proven model for college success and community leadership, and we understand the importance of maintaining this program here in the Yakima Valley which is why we continue to staff and fund it. The program has helped more than 100 students achieve college success since it was introduced to our area 13 years ago. Act Six brings together diverse, multicultural cadres of young people, many of whom are first-generation students who want to pursue a college education to make a difference on campus and in their communities. Act Six students receive leadership training and ongoing support throughout their college education, and they receive substantial financial assistance making college not just a dream but a real possibility.

**Andrea Ceja is one of the Act Six students on the cusp of graduating from Heritage University. Learn more about how Act Six has impacted her life on the next page...**



## Achieving Dreams Through Act Six

Andrea Ceja never planned to attend college. She figured she would graduate high school and then go to work in the fields or a fruit packing warehouse. Acceptance into the Act Six program and the subsequent financial support changed her trajectory.

"It's allowed me to become someone I didn't even know I could be: to reach potentials I didn't even know were possible," Andrea says.

Andrea went to school in Toppenish and is now entering her senior year at Heritage University, with a major in business finance and a minor in psychology. Like many Act Six scholarship recipients, Andrea is the first member of her family to attend college.

Giving back to her community is an important part of Andrea's life. She believes in the value of mentoring, and she tries to see the potential in everyone she meets. Many of her mentees in the Toppenish area have gone on to college or the workforce. Andrea keeps in touch with many of them and follows their journeys, knowing she played a part by encouraging them to take chances even though they might have been afraid.

The Act Six program does more than provide a scholarship to deserving students. The program sets these students up for success to become leaders in their communities. We know Andrea, like the 12 cohorts of Act Six Scholars before her, will make a difference in our community and we are proud to serve as the Fiscal Sponsor of the Yakima Act Six program.

## FISCAL SPONSOR AND STAFF SUPPORT FOR

**As conveners of people and resources, we also support the following:**

Friends of Camp Fife

Center for Latino Leadership

Ready to Rise

Youth Leadership Council for the  
Yakima Valley

Centro de Servicios Comunitarios



**CENTRAL WASHINGTON  
NONPROFIT NETWORK**



**Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima**

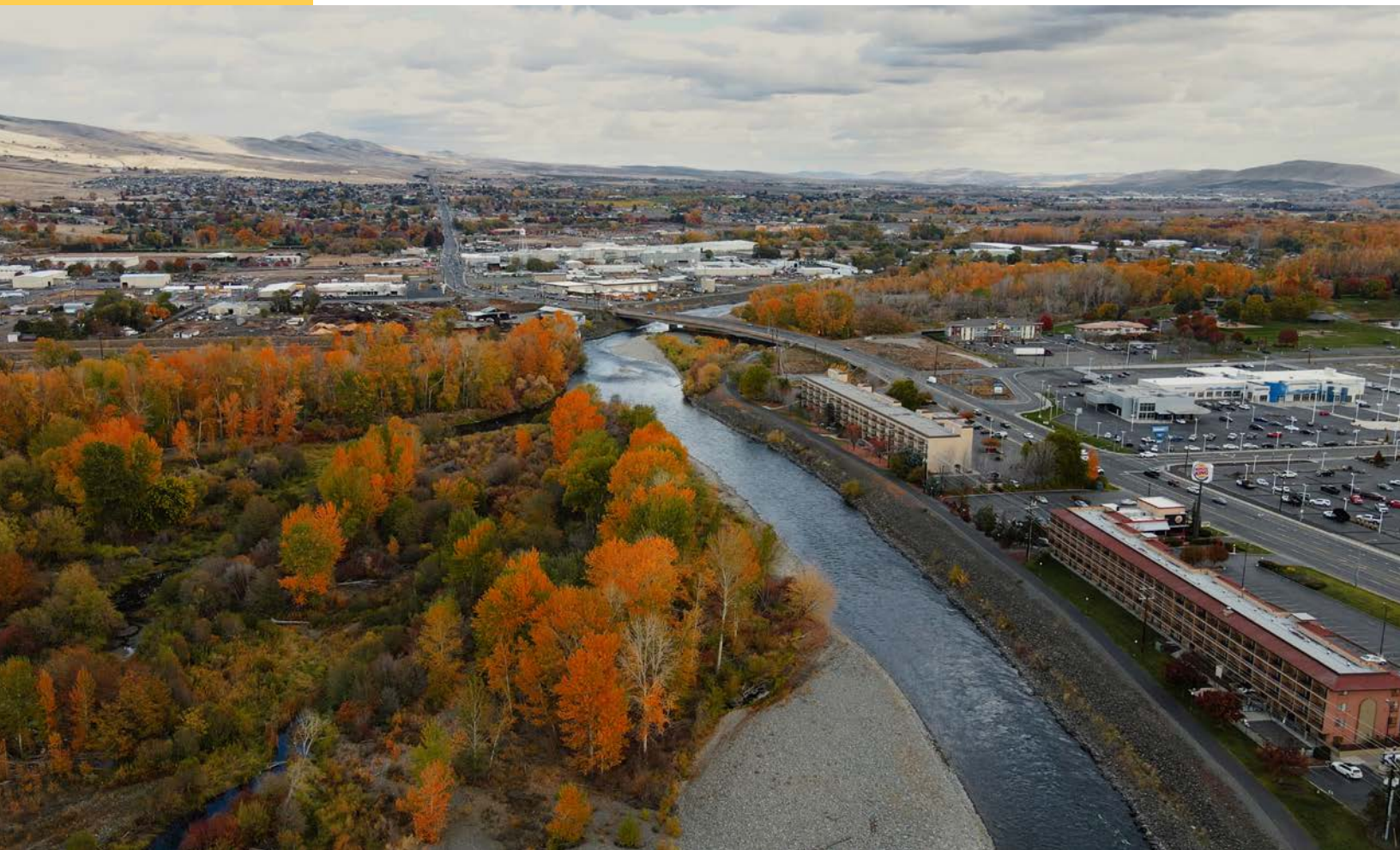
## Meet the Board

Cynthia Juarez – Chair  
Lisa Campbell-John – Vice-Chair  
Kristin Kershaw-Snapp – Past-Chair  
Josh Beck – Treasurer  
Wendy Aguilar  
Greg Bainter  
Gwen Chaplin  
Cragg Gilbert  
Esther Magasis  
Ignacio Marques  
Corrine Murphy-Hines

Paul Nagle-McNaughton  
Martha Rickey  
Jose Rivera  
Giovanni Severino  
David Severn  
Magaly Solis  
Miho Sugasawa  
Rhonda Taylor  
Christie Tirado  
Anita Quintana

## Meet the Staff

Sharon Miracle – President and CEO  
Lisa Fresco – Chief Financial Officer  
Lindsay Boswell – Director of Grants and Programs  
Amber Ortiz-Diaz – Program Officer  
Faviola Gomez – Co-director, Act Six – Ready to Rise  
Omar Manzo – Co-director, Act Six – Ready to Rise  
Heidi Pelletier – Director of Donor Advising  
Chelsea Stanton – Grants and Data Manager  
Marina Medrano – Bilingual Coalition Coordinator





## Mission

To connect people, resources, and ideas so the community we know and love thrives.

## Vision

A community leader in education, health, and civic engagement—supporting equitable access to opportunity with special attention to those who are frequently left out and left behind.

## Values

Results. Capability. Excellence. Transparency. Collaboration. Inclusion.

### We are committed to:

- Appreciating the dignity and worth of all individuals
- Listening to and elevating the voice of the community
- Inviting honest discourse about equity, diversity and inclusion
- Developing operational policies that advance diversity and belonging
- Nurturing an open and welcoming work environment
- Promoting the dismantling of structural and cultural barriers to individual achievement
- Collaborating with and supporting organizations that address equity, change systems and deliver services
- Advocating for public policies and practices consistent with our commitments
- Using our resources to make the Yakima Valley a place where all people can fully realize their aspirations

### Board & staff diversity:



48% BIPOC  
52% White



60% Female



***We've Moved!***

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**Yakima Valley**  
**Community Foundation**

**YAKIMAVALLEYCF.ORG**