

From Homeless Queer Teen to Philanthropy Pro: The LGBTQ+ nonprofit community changed my life and now I am returning the favor.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, my life's journey has been shaped by various struggles and triumphs, ultimately leading me to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. I have personally experienced the challenges of being a homeless teenager and grappling with mental health issues, all while striving to find my place as a queer individual. These struggles have given me a unique perspective on the importance of nonprofit resources, like the ones the Community Foundation supports, which have played a crucial role in my personal success story. Now, I am dedicated to giving back to the community that has supported me and continues to empower individuals like me and I encourage you to join me.

Support for LGBTQ+ nonprofits now as well as sustainable support the future needs of southeast Michigan

Working at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has been a transformative experience. As the Director of Gift and Grant Services, I have witnessed firsthand the Community Foundation's commitment to fostering positive change in the region, especially within the LGBTQ+ community. I see that our work in grantmaking and the establishment of long-term support for nonprofits through endowment, has allowed the Community Foundation to drive real change and create a more inclusive and accepting society.

Through our grant programs, we have been able to uplift and amplify the voices of numerous LGBTQ+ organizations and initiatives. From providing essential services for vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth to advocating for legal protections and equality, the Community Foundation has played a pivotal role in advancing the rights and inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in southeast Michigan.

While we strive to address the current needs and challenges of our region, the Community Foundation's emphasis on building endowments ensures that these positive changes are not temporary but have a lasting impact. The resources invested today will continue to benefit future generations, ensuring a sustainable and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in southeast Michigan.

Transform YOUR inspiration into impact

To maintain and expand the remarkable progress we have made, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan relies on the donors' support for our Now and Forever Fund. This endowed fund serves as the backbone of our ongoing work, ensuring the longevity of our mission and enabling us to continue advocating for equity and inclusivity in southeast Michigan.

While employees like me have a finite time to create impact, the Now and Forever Fund ensures the Community Foundation has the talented people, up-to-date technology and community presence required to promote equity and ensure southeast Michigan is a desirable place to live, work and play for generations to come.

Your contribution to the Now and Forever Fund actively supports the growth and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community, and the numerous other communities found in our region. By partnering with the Community Foundation, you are providing crucial resources, guidance, and opportunities to

local nonprofit organizations and initiatives. Together, we can ensure that the Community Foundation remains responsive to the emerging needs and challenges of our community, making southeast Michigan a more vibrant and welcoming place for all.

I've found that working with the Community Foundation has allowed me to be a Voice of Change and I invite you to add your voice to ours. Join us in our mission to build a brighter and more inclusive future for all LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in southeast Michigan. Your voice and support matter, and together, we can create a legacy of positive change for generations to come.