

McGREGOR FUND

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McGregor Fund Announces New Grantmaking Framework to Alleviate Poverty and Strengthen Social Supports

Detroit, MI, March 7, 2017 –After nearly a year of reflection, assessment and discussions across the community, the McGregor Fund announces a new grantmaking framework focusing on poverty alleviation and strengthening the social safety net. Building on its founders' legacy and responding to the disconnection that many vulnerable people feel from the city's progress, the Fund's framework prioritizes efforts that: 1) address basic human needs such as food, shelter, and access to primary medical care; 2) offer recovery and restorative pathways to people who have experienced abuse, trauma, and/or substance abuse disorders; and 3) provide holistic, personally transformational skill building programs that lead to broader opportunities.

The new framework represents three central, thematic functions of the social safety net. "Within each area, the Fund will map the region's capacity to respond to human need, identify the best in class nonprofits for investment, and, over time, bring better definition to bodies of work that help people change their lives," said McGregor Fund President, Kate Levin Markel.

The new framework responds to the vast, complex, fragmented social safety net in metro Detroit that lacks both easy definition and a visible order. These qualities make it challenging to track and influence the ebb and flow of public resources that pay for the majority of services and income supports offered to people most in need. It can also be difficult to discern the roles played by the nonprofit sector and find meaningful investment opportunities that improve outcomes for people in need.

"We are truly excited to explore this framework with our partners and peers as we aspire to connect different sectors of work, promote progressive public policy wherever we can, and showcase innovation and shared learning," continued Ms. Markel.

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The Fund will continue to support nonprofits delivering basic necessities, free of charge and at a significant scale, in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. While the Fund has provided steadfast support to nonprofits serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, it will expand support to other nonprofit providers offering recovery-oriented, trauma-informed care for very low income metro-Detroiters who have experienced hardships. The Fund's newest area of grantmaking includes support for nonprofit organizations successfully helping teens and adults with little or no income or assets, to develop essential soft and hard skills, build a network of trusting relationships, grow self-confidence, and cultivate a positive view of the future and broader sense of possibilities. The Fund will also continue to seek out opportunities to strengthen the region's overall ecosystem of social supports and connect all three investment areas to each other.

"We asked ourselves how our founders, Tracy and Katherine McGregor, might view their city and their foundation were they alive today. We took a hard, honest look at the human suffering born out of concentrated poverty in our city and region," said Reuben A. Munday, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We arrived at a focused approach to supporting our region's most vulnerable teens and adults in times of crisis and as they seek opportunities for personal transformation."

As the Fund implements this framework, it has clarified its grant process and is prioritizing advocacy, learning, transparency, and engagement. A new website has launched at www.mcgregorfund.org containing detailed information about the new grantmaking priorities and process and offering grantseekers ways to connect with Fund staff.

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." The geography of principal interest of the foundation is the city of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. The McGregor Fund has granted nearly \$242 million since its founding and had assets of \$162 million as of June 30, 2016.

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