



Wilder

2020 Annual Report



AMHERST H.
WILDER
FOUNDATION

Here for good.



Wilder Annual Report 2020

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mission

The mission of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is to promote the social welfare of persons resident or located in the greater Saint Paul metropolitan area by all appropriate means including:

- Relief of the poor
- Care of the sick and aged
- Care and nurture of children
- Aid of the disadvantaged and otherwise needy
- Promotion of physical and mental health

- Support of rehabilitation and corrections
- Provision of needed housing and social services
- Operation of residences and facilities for the aged, the infirm, and those requiring special care

And, in general, the conservation of human resources by the provision of human services responsive to the welfare needs of the community, all without regard to, or discrimination on account of, nationality, sex, color, religious scruples, or prejudices.

A Message from Board Chair Julie Brunner

Thank you for the many ways you support our mission in a time like none other. The needs in our community are greater than ever as the global COVID-19 pandemic upends life as we know it. Families everywhere face challenges related to health, the economy, education, mental health, and simply coping with stress. We have experienced violent, unjust and traumatic events that call attention to systemic racism. These difficult times affect everyone, but they hit the people and families Wilder serves hardest.

This was a year of transition at Wilder. Following the departure of former President MayKao Hang, longtime friend and supporter of Wilder Brad Hewitt stepped in as interim president and guided the organization through a challenging time. He never could have anticipated part of the job would be to lead Wilder during a pandemic; I am extremely grateful for his leadership and commitment.

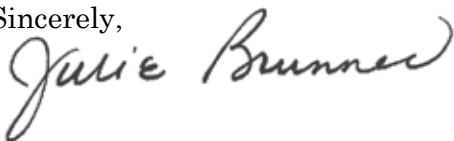
I am also thankful for Armando Camacho, who became Wilder's seventh president and CEO in July following a thorough search process. Armando brings a wealth of nonprofit leadership experience to Wilder and a clear passion for contributing to the Saint Paul community that raised him. I am excited to work with Armando as we continue to strengthen families and find innovative ways to meet community needs.

This past spring our leadership team made difficult programming decisions. We closed our Wilder Center for Communities division and the majority of our community leadership programs. We ended our Adult Day Health program after more than 40 years of operations. While the Twin Cities Mobile Market is still rolling, it transitioned to the local nonprofit The Food Group. These were well-loved programs that contributed a great deal to the community. Though painful, I know the decisions we made will strengthen Wilder's ability to be a force for good in times of great uncertainty.

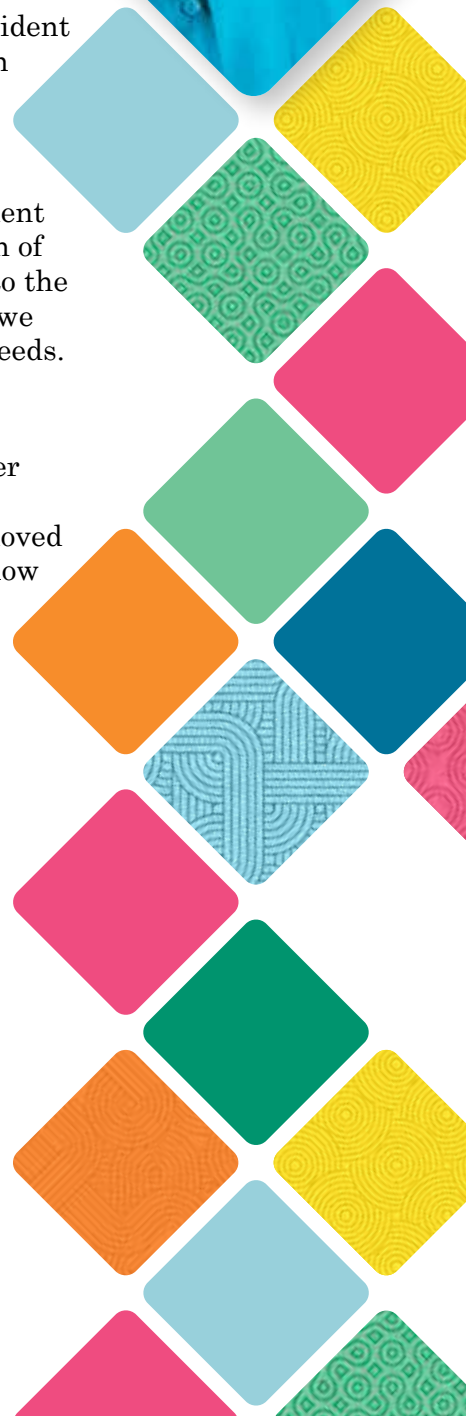
So much has changed around us, yet one thing that remains constant is Wilder's impact. This report is full of examples of how Wilder worked to strengthen families in unprecedented times. Staff, supporters and volunteers stepped up to meet the needs of families in our community who continue to be resilient in the face of adversity.

I'm proud to share this report with you and prouder still to take part in Wilder's mission to improve lives today and for generations to come. However you join us in this effort, know that you are making a difference in our community—thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Brunner





A Message from President & CEO Armando Camacho

I'm humbled to have the opportunity to serve the community as Wilder's president and CEO. I am grateful for our Board of Directors and all of our staff and partners for welcoming me and making me feel at home here. I also want to thank Brad Hewitt for his leadership over the past year, and MayKao Hang for all she has done to advance Wilder's impact in Saint Paul and beyond.

It's an honor to join the legacy of this organization.

It's no secret we are living through difficult times, yet I feel hopeful about the future. I have seen the families served by Wilder struggling with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I have seen our staff and volunteers respond with remarkable compassion. When we couldn't meet children and families in person for therapy appointments, we found ways to maintain those connections using technology. When parents at our Child Development Center told us they needed child care while they worked in essential roles, we kept our doors open so they could keep the country going. When our community reached out seeking support in the wake of George Floyd's murder, our staff showed up to help with the healing even as they processed the trauma themselves.

Right now, we know we have a role to play in addressing the inequities that plague our community. Equity will remain a priority for Wilder in all aspects of our work: As a research organization, a service provider, and an employer. You will find examples of these efforts throughout this report, but we have so much more to do. I look forward to working with staff, partners and the entire community to understand how Wilder can be a stronger force for equity.

Our supporters have been with us every step of the way throughout the pandemic and in the wake of the civil unrest and pain fueled by institutional racism. Thanks to you, we are delivering Meals on Wheels to our neighbors. We are helping families find and maintain stable housing. We are improving lives as we have for more than a century. No matter what the future holds, we are ready to respond to whatever the community needs.

None of this would be possible without your contributions to our mission and our community. I am in awe of your generosity and commitment as we work together to create a brighter future for everyone. From the bottom of my heart I thank you.

In partnership,

Armando Camacho

Adapting to Meet Community Needs

Through a global pandemic, the unrest and community pain following the murder of George Floyd, and economic and financial uncertainty, Wilder has adapted and innovated to continue critical services that help families thrive.

Here are some examples of how Wilder met the needs of families and the community in 2020.

Attaining Home Ownership During the Pandemic

Jenny Holloway and her two children joined the ROOF supportive housing program after she escaped domestic violence. With support from housing staff member Gloria DuPree, the family moved from a domestic violence shelter into a three-bedroom apartment. Gloria connected Jenny to Build Wealth Minnesota, an organization that helps families work toward financial security. Jenny worked with Gloria for two years before exiting the housing program.

Through planning and perseverance, Jenny paid off her debts. In April 2020, she bought a home for her family and is working to remodel it. “People will live up to your expectations,” Gloria says. “If you tell them ‘You’ve got this, you can do this,’ they are survivors, not victims. Treat them like survivors and encourage them. Show them someone believes.”

What we offer: Supporting Housing Services

New Approaches Help Families Maintain Economic Stability

In Fiscal Year 2020, 50 families enrolled in the Direct Housing Assistance program, which provides financial assistance for families to prevent households from entering a crisis. As a response to the pandemic, Wilder extended household subsidies by three months, revised income eligibility and transitioned the application to a digital format. Direct Housing Assistance provides payments directly to participants’ landlords and mortgage holders during a 12-month period. The program is open to families who participate in Wilder services.

The Family Independence Initiative (FII), which supports families as they work in peer groups to move themselves out of poverty, made cash payouts available immediately that would have been available over the remainder of their two-year commitment to the initiative.

What we offer: Direct Housing Assistance & Family Independence Initiative

“Setting goals and checking in on a monthly basis has helped me to stay on track with my path to success. The group meetings have given me a sense of belonging, I have made new friends and I receive the continued encouragement I need to stay on task with my goals.
—FII participant

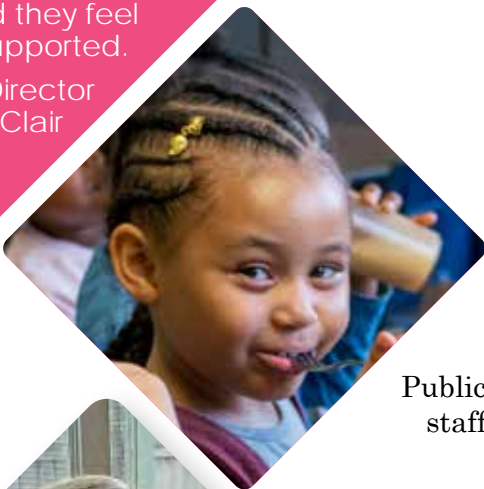
Child Development Center Maintains a Reassuring Space for Kids



When the pandemic began, 90% of parents at the Wilder Child Development Center said they needed child care so that they could continue to work and support their families. The Center, which provides high-quality early childhood education, remained open, and served as a place with welcome routines and a reassuring environment for children and families. “You walk into the classroom and the kids are just as happy as can be,” says Director Angie Clair. “Our kids know what to expect, and they feel safe and supported.”

“You walk into the classroom and the kids are just as happy as can be. Our kids know what to expect, and they feel safe and supported.”

—CDC Director Angie Clair



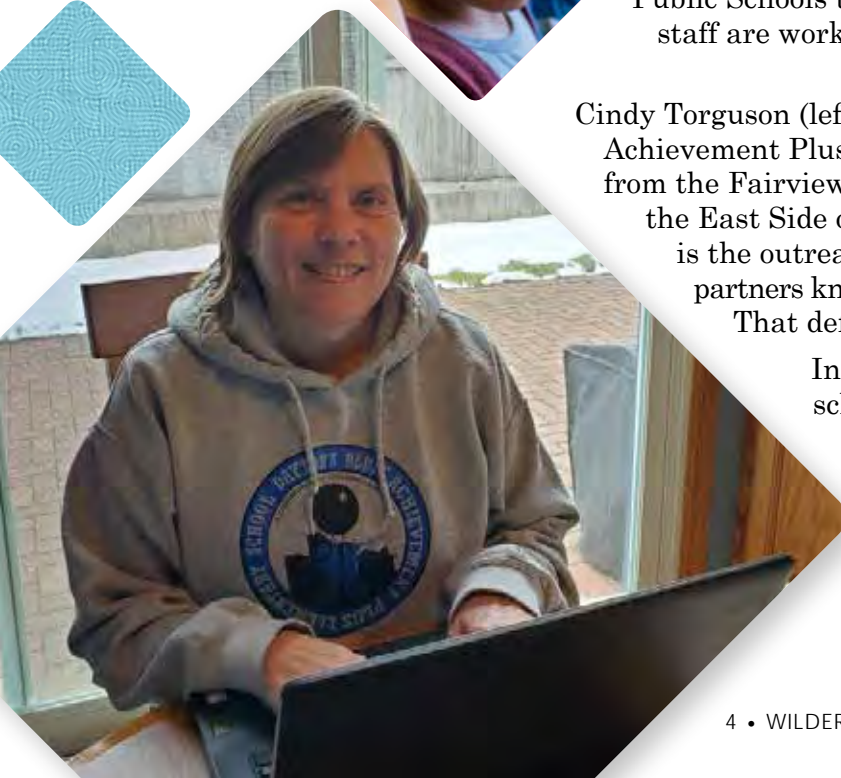
What we offer: Preschool and Childcare at Wilder's Child Development Center

Support For Families Even With Schools Closed

In Achievement Plus, a Wilder partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools to coordinate resources in three community schools, staff are working with partners and families to continue meeting needs even when school buildings are closed.

Cindy Torguson (left), Achievement Plus coordinator for Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School, helped secure a \$10,000 grant from the Fairview Foundation in April to provide food for families on the East Side of Saint Paul. “What has been really amazing to me is the outreach from all our partners,” Cindy says. “Community partners know there's someone to help get information to families. That definitely is what it means to be a community school.”

In fall 2020, the Achievement Plus team and Wilder's school-based mental health program worked together with Greater Twin Cities United Way to secure a grant to support students and families on the North End of Saint Paul with needs related to the coronavirus.



Community impact: Achievement Plus

Customized Living Staff Provide Extra Support for Participants and Each Other

Customized Living Services works with adults in Saint Paul public housing who need daily assistance to live independently and prevent or delay the need to move into a nursing home. During the stay-at-home order to slow the spread of COVID-19, some participants experienced new or increased challenges with mental health because they were isolated and unable to see their providers. Staff received additional training in suicide prevention and mental health first aid to respond.

In the community unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd, the longtime community pharmacy used by many participants was destroyed. For six weeks, Wilder nursing staff worked extra hours to make sure clients could obtain their medications. Staff themselves were experiencing hardships during this time: Many use public transportation, which was reduced during COVID and again during the unrest. Coworkers provided rides for each other to make sure everyone could get to work.

“I’m so proud of how our staff came together to support the well-being of the residents we work with,” says Jennifer Baker, manager of Customized Living Services. “This has been a challenging time for residents and staff, and the resilience we’ve shown in caring for one another is inspiring.”

What we offer: Customized Living Services

Program Transitions

Adult Day Health Closes After More than 40 Years

Wilder Adult Day Health closed in June after more than 40 years of improving the quality of life for hundreds of older adults and adults with disabilities. “It has been an honor to support community members who have entrusted us to care for them and their loved ones,” says Julie Brunner, chair of the Wilder board of directors.

“We are grateful to our dedicated, compassionate staff, our selfless volunteers, our numerous community partners, and everyone who has played a part in making Adult Day Health a safe, welcoming place for participants and their families.”

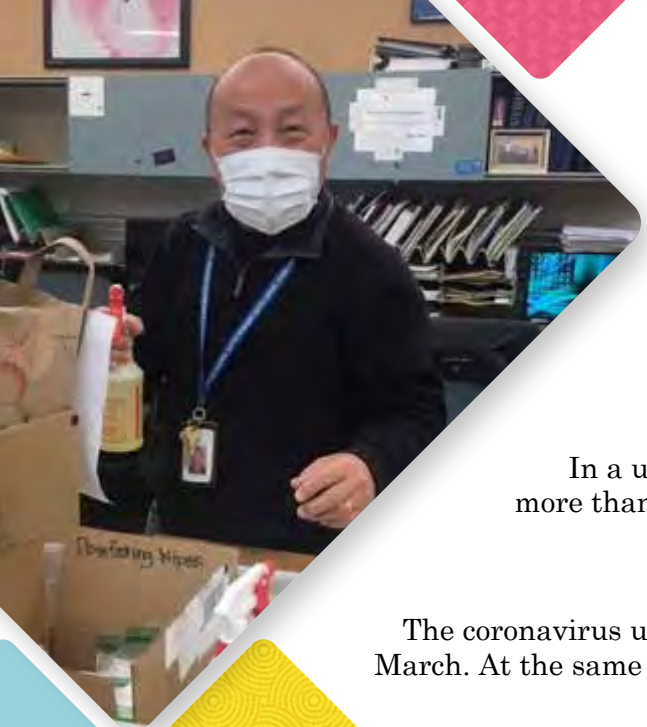


Mobile Market Moves to a New Organization

The Twin Cities Mobile Market, a grocery store on a bus that brings affordable foods directly to Twin Cities neighborhoods that don’t have nearby grocery stores or food shelves, became part of The Food Group in March after five years as a Wilder program.

“Wilder often acts as an incubator for new program models that have capacity for greater impact beyond the organization,” says Nona Ferguson, vice president of Economic Stability and Aging Services. “The transition to The Food Group is an opportunity for the Mobile Market to grow and better meet the needs of the community.”





Wilder Mental Health Forges New Ways of Connecting with Telehealth

In a usual year, Wilder provides mental health and recovery services to more than 2,000 children, families and adults in the mental health clinic at Wilder Center, in schools and in the community.

2020 was no ordinary year.

The coronavirus upended in-person client meetings when it arrived in Minnesota in March. At the same time, the strain of the pandemic deepened existing mental health needs and created new needs where none existed.

Wilder's team of counselors, case managers, therapists, nurses and prescribers knew there would be an urgent need for accessible mental health services that balance physical safety and overall wellness. At the start of the pandemic, they paused to make and implement a plan that was carefully coordinated to meet clients' needs by telehealth.

Pahoua Yang, vice president of Community Mental Health and Wellness, and other Wilder staff were among a group of mental health professionals who worked with our local and state government on changing regulations to make telehealth more accessible. Within Wilder, staff worked to make sure clients could access the mental health services they need by video, including adjusting billing practices, identifying and testing technology—even purchasing phones for clients who lack access or funds for technology. With these acts of ordinary magic, providers are now popping into clients' lives through screens.



“At Wilder, we have innovated to meet community needs for more than a century, and this year has been a perfect example,” Pahoua says. “Through our new, primarily digital presence, we have the honor of supporting incredible growth, transformation, and resilience when it is needed most.”

Therapists Use Creativity to Connect and Deepen Relationships by Telehealth

Providers and families have found surprising benefits as they adjusted to meetings by video—after overcoming initial hiccups and hesitations. Six-year-old Kate had been coming to Wilder for over a year to slowly heal trauma from abuse and neglect prior to her adoption. Through play therapy, she and her family had been making progress in forming critical bonds of attachment and trust, until everything shut down. Distance learning hadn't started well for Kate, so how could video work for something as personal and physical as play therapy?

After some troubleshooting, Kate and her therapist found a silver lining: For the first time, Kate was able to show her world to her therapist. Their therapeutic relationship was actually *enhanced* by this new level of deeper personal connection, and the family is again moving toward their goals.

Mental Health During the Pandemic

In the U.S. in June, 2020:

- **1 in 4** adults reported struggling with mental health or substance abuse.
- **1 in 10** reported seriously considering suicide in the past 30 days, with higher rates among people aged 18–24, Black and Hispanic people, essential workers, and unpaid caregivers of adults.

These rates are **2–3 times** higher than in an ordinary year.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Meanwhile, school-based therapists made quick adjustments to bring social-emotional learning and trauma-informed care into the distance learning equation. Wilder school therapists are present in 40% of Saint Paul Public Schools as well as other schools in the Twin Cities.

Connecting through school-issued tablets to ensure every student could access care, therapists found opportunities to work with families in new and different ways. Through telehealth scavenger hunts, Minecraft explorations, and patty cake with siblings, therapists are supporting students in staying regulated and connected amid the uncertainty and change.

Telehealth Preserves Access to Culturally Appropriate Care

Staff in our Assertive Community Treatment program, which helps adults experiencing severe and persistent mental illness stabilize, recover and stay in community, began working with a new client during the governor's stay-at-home order. The client only spoke Burmese. Wilder staff brought a tablet to his home and taught him how to use it. The case manager, who is bilingual, then went to his car to maintain social distance, and joined a video conference to interpret for the client and facilitate the diagnostic assessment and intake meeting. With the video call, the psychiatrist, nurse, team lead and the client could all see and interact with each other.

"We would not have been able to do this if not for teletherapy," says Barbara Williamson, Assertive Community Treatment team lead at Wilder.

Continued access to a culturally matched therapist is a major benefit of telehealth, along with the ability of therapists to safely maintain strong connections with clients at a time when many people are experiencing new or increased mental health symptoms. "Success this year has meant keeping clients connected to care so that, together, we can navigate the many challenges we are all facing," Pahoua says.

What we offer: Mental Health & Wellness Services



Wilder serves in a coordination role for This is Medicaid, a statewide coalition of 50+ organizations in Minnesota working to protect Medicaid from harmful changes including threats to enrollment, benefits and services. In 2020, This is Medicaid worked to protect access to medical, dental, chemical health and mental health as well as home and community-based services that help people maintain health and well-being.





Wilder Research Helps St. Louis Park Understand and Find Solutions to Food Insecurity

Food insecurity—not having reliable and sufficient amounts of affordable, nutritious food—may be an unfamiliar term, but the problem is not new. Food insecurity is tied to poverty, but is also impacted by transportation, low wages, housing and health care costs, and access to grocery stores. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity had been declining since the recession, but food shelf use continued to rise, with Minnesotans visiting food shelves 3.4 million times in 2017. In 2018, local advocates asked the City of St. Louis Park to do more to address food insecurity in their community. In 2019, the city hired Wilder Research to conduct a citywide study to identify current resources, barriers, and opportunities. The data would be used to guide action to help ensure everyone in the community has access to nutritious, affordable food.

Who Is Most Impacted by Food Insecurity in St. Louis Park?

The 2018 Hennepin County SHAPE Survey found that 12% of residents in St. Louis Park and Hopkins “sometimes” or “often” worry that they will run out of food before having money to buy more. Wilder Research identified specific populations in St. Louis Park who may be at greater risk of food insecurity, including children, older adults, households living near or below the poverty line and immigrant communities. For example, 30% of St. Louis Park ninth grade students received free or reduced priced lunches, which is available for students living in low-income households.

“Food insecurity can be invisible in some communities,” said Amanda Hane, Wilder Research researcher who worked on the study. “This study helped shed light on who is most impacted by food insecurity in St. Louis Park, and how the city can build on existing strengths and address service gaps to ensure all residents have adequate food.”

Resources Are Available to Support Food Security and Access, But Barriers Exist

The study found that St. Louis Park has a higher number of grocery stores per capita than surrounding communities, as well as convenience stores, food shelves, community gardens, and other programs that increase access to healthy foods. But the resources aren’t always known or accessible to all residents.

Other factors identified in the study that may contribute to food insecurity:

- Limited transportation routes and schedules, and long walks to get food.
- Housing costs that force people to make difficult decisions about how to prioritize their dollars, including going without food.
- A stigma associated with not having enough food, which can affect whether people seek help and may contribute to food insecurity being a “hidden” issue.

A key informant in the Wilder Research study explained, “It [can feel like a] shameful thing for a parent to say, I can’t feed my kids. It [can feel] shameful [to] a senior to say, I’ve worked hard all my life and I’m looking fondly at canned food. It [can feel like a] shameful thing for a person just starting out [to say] I spent all this money for college, [but I] can’t even feed myself....It’s the myth of America that if you don’t make it big, it’s your fault. That’s part of it.”



Community Equity Program Alum Triasia Givens Advocates for Education

Triasia Givens joined Wilder's Community Equity Program in fall 2019 because she wanted to work with others to create change in the community. She is deeply involved in her community as a parent in Minneapolis Public Schools, a graduate student and part owner of a mental health services business in North Minneapolis. Through her work and community engagement, Triasia sees opportunities to create meaningful change in education and other systems. "I want to be a better leader for my community," Triasia says.

The Community Equity Program amplifies the power, skills and experience of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) to engage in and influence public policy decision making for their communities. Just 10% of the Minnesota Legislature is comprised of BIPOC-identified legislators. Though little data are available about the number of Black, Indigenous or people of color who are involved in advocacy for public policy decision making in the state, it's generally recognized that people of color are underrepresented.

In the Community Equity Program, Triasia developed the knowledge and skills to navigate and take action during a legislative session, from building a coalition, to creating powerful testimony to the process of making a bill. "Everything about changing or impacting your community through the political process, we definitely learned," Triasia says. "I gained so much. It was so informative. Every time we stepped into that room, I knew that we were going to learn something so powerful, so impactful."

Reflecting on BIPOC Experiences Is Central to Personal Leadership Development

For Triasia, one of the most important lessons from the Community Equity Program was about the power of vulnerability. In addition to building skills, knowledge and networks, the Community Equity Program encourages participants to examine and cultivate their personal leadership by reflecting on the experience of BIPOC leaders navigating the legislative process.



This year's Community Equity Program cohort has begun building solidarity and community with one another as they deepen their engagement in public policy decision making.

“I was like, how many times are you going to ask about me? Can’t we just learn about the process?” Triasia says. At the start of the program, Triasia and her siblings were caring for her grandmother, with whom she was very close, as her grandmother was in hospice at home. “Nobody in CEP knew about that,” she says. In December, after her grandmother died, Triasia began opening up to her colleagues in the program. “I realized that vulnerability was a strength, and that sometimes culturally you’re taught differently than what can help you personally develop,” she says.

Cohort of Community Leaders Build a Strong Network in the Leadership Program

By the end of the program, Triasia developed a strong network with her cohort of community leaders, including candidates for political races and others with strong backgrounds in community leadership. “I was around very powerful, very amazing people. I was just in awe of everybody and what they’re doing and how they’re doing things,” she says.

Triasia plans to continue working toward equity in education, including joining a push to make Black history mandatory in schools. She also wants to work on changes to education for students who receive special education services, especially in Level IV programs, which educate students separately from mainstream classes. She wants to change how victims of domestic violence and sexual violence are supported when they encounter police. Triasia sees much of this work coalescing in conversations about police reform and addressing systemic racism in Minneapolis. “The dots are connecting,” she says.

What we offer: Community Equity Program

“Everything about changing or impacting your community through the political process, we definitely learned...Every time we stepped into that room, I knew that we were going to learn something so powerful, so impactful.

—Triasia Givens

Honoring the Legacy of Wilder Center for Communities

In 2020, Wilder made the difficult decision to end our training and consulting offerings and the majority of our leadership development programs. We know the absence of these programs will be felt throughout the community, and we are grateful to partners, supporters and program alumni who have contributed to the impact of community leadership programs at Wilder.

Wilder will no longer offer the Youth Leadership Initiative, the Neighborhood Leadership Program, the Latino Leadership Program, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collaborative, and the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute.

We are actively working to identify and support partner organizations that may be able to take up these important leadership programs. Everyone who has contributed to these programs has amplified the voices of leaders from all generations and communities, shaped bold initiatives to address disparities, and joined partners to improve systems that affect all of us.



Wilder Volunteer Loves Giving Caregivers a Break



Longtime Wilder volunteer Johanna (Jo) Stammeier-Toole has given over 1,000 hours of her time to the Wilder Community Center for Aging. Jo first started volunteering in the Adult Day Health program. When the program closed in summer 2020, she then volunteered to work with a new caregiver respite program, Wilder Connect.

Like many Wilder volunteers, Jo lived in the community, regularly driving past the organization. Starting in summer 2014, she volunteered up to three times a week. Due to health issues she reduced her volunteering, but still commits to four hours a week.

The Wilder Community Center for Aging appealed to Jo due to her personal experience caring for a loved one. “I am a daughter of a mother who had dementia,” she says. “My mother used to tell me I radiated a ‘comforting calmness’ when around her. Because of that knowledge, I love knowing I can help by giving caregivers a break and easing the suffering of people with dementia.”

Wilder employee Christa Schwarting, who has worked closely with Jo, believes her biggest impact has come from her dedication and generosity. “In addition to volunteering her time, Jo also donates items to the program. She has contributed bingo prizes, and even donated pepper when she noticed we were out,” Christa says.

There is one special memory of Jo’s kindness that stands out for Christa. “We were making homemade ice cream and one of the clients was lactose intolerant. Jo ran to the local co-op and bought almond milk so that person could still participate.”

Jo is quite modest regarding her effect as a volunteer. “I hope my greatest impact as a volunteer is supporting the staff and hopefully making their jobs a bit easier,” she says.

“The spirit of volunteering is, “What can I do to make things better?” During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing this spirit shine through in a challenging time for our participants, staff, volunteers and communities. Thank you for your contributions to keep our neighborhoods and cities strong!”

—Austine Vaughn-Bergling,
Volunteer Services Manager



Get involved: Volunteer



In 2020, **426** volunteers donated
12,345 hours to support our mission

When **Meals on Wheels** made rapid changes to make sure that volunteers could safely deliver meals, volunteers were ready to help. Community members with unexpected free time because they were unable to work spent time volunteering for Meals on Wheels at Wilder's Community Center for Aging almost daily.

“It's a little more rushed and a little more fluid. It's more like, this is what we're doing today and who knows how we're going to be rolling tomorrow. But the bottom line is we're serving people who need it—and that's always been the case.”
—Jack, former Meals on Wheels volunteer

Congratulations to Wilder volunteer Kate Hu, who received the 2020 Sandy Kiernat Award for Dedication to Community Service

Kate has quietly made a difference at Wilder by filing, updating databases and working on projects that saved time and allowed Wilder staff to focus on programs. In fact, a former Wilder employee calls Kate's contributions “invaluable.”

The Sandy Kiernat Award was established ten years ago to recognize and celebrate volunteers who most exemplify the spirit of community service demonstrated by Sandy Kiernat, a former member and chairperson of Wilder's board of directors.

“I was surprised and honored to be the recipient. It means that the foundation values the work I do,” Kate says.





In Their Own Words: Wilder Supporters Share Why They Give

16-Year-Old Faith Her Celebrates Milestone Birthday with Fundraiser for Wilder

Faith Her wanted to find a way to give back to her community as part of her birthday celebration last winter. After conferring with her mother, Wilder employee Mary Her, Faith asked friends and family to donate to Hlub Zoo, a culturally specific Wilder school-based mental health program.

“I have received so much every year for my birthday, so for my Sweet 16, instead of receiving more birthday gifts, I wanted to encourage my friends and family to donate their gifts to something important, to a place that helps others,” Faith says.

Faith set up an online fundraiser through Facebook, which made donating easy for her friends and family. Asking others to give to a program she cares about was the biggest reward of all. “I believe it is important for young people to take care of their mental health and well-being,” Faith says. “Hlub Zoo specifically works with Southeast Asian students, which I appreciate as a young Hmong student myself.”

Inspired by Faith, her friends and family gave generously in support of Hlub Zoo. In addition to organizing a fundraiser, Faith celebrated her day with family at home and invited a small group of friends to volunteer with her to pack food at Feed My Starving Children.

Faith says that her faith inspires her to give back to her community. “It is also important to give, instead of always receiving, because I am already blessed with so much,” she says.

“Living in a small town like Morris, the atrocity of the killing of George Floyd and the outpouring of peaceful protests can seem like a world away. As a country, we have swept many issues of social inequity and injustice under the rug for too long. This is why we are happy to partner with Wilder through our giving. In Wilder, we have found an organization that does not look the other way at poverty, discrimination and social injustice. Wilder is trying to address these systemic problems head on. And, it is doing so in a sustained, purposeful, peaceful way.”

—Excerpt from a letter sent by donors
Mike and Kathy Buendgen, June 21, 2020



“

We are happy to support the work that Wilder does as donors. We're passionate about education, public policy, and racial equity, and we appreciate how Wilder supports whole families in early childhood education, delivers school-based and culturally specific mental health services, and engages a wider diversity of voices in public policy.”

“I (Ilse) have roots in Saint Paul, and my parents were connected with Wilder's work, so I found out about the organization through them. We stayed connected to the mission through some of Wilder's Board members throughout the years. It's phenomenal to have Wilder's unique presence in the Twin Cities community.”

—Ilse and Omar Akbar



Wilder Donors Bond Through Family and Shared Commitment to Give Back

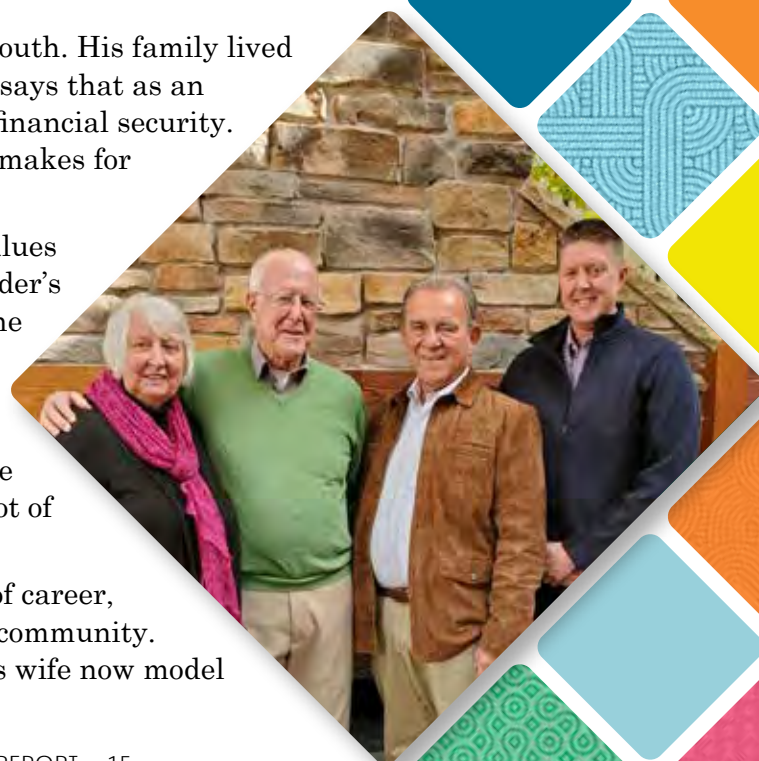
Dave and Sherla Mayer met Ron Bongard when their adult son, Pete, started dating Ron's daughter, Becky. Later, the two families found a new common interest: Supporting Wilder's work with children, family and older adults in the community.

Dave and Sherla have supported the Saint Paul community for most of their lives. Dave worked at Wilder for more than 30 years, and Sherla was a juvenile probation officer. As Wilder donors for more than 25 years, Dave and Sherla are inspired by how the Child Development Center prepares young children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Ron Bongard's passion for giving stems back to his youth. His family lived in public housing and received welfare support. Ron says that as an adult, he has been blessed in many ways, including financial security. He enjoys giving back and knowing the difference it makes for families like his own.

The two families found connection in their shared values when Ron joined the Mayers at Ordinary Magic, Wilder's signature fundraising event. Ron was impressed as he got to know Wilder, and he especially appreciates that Wilder programs help families cope in difficult times, like rent support and chemical dependency counseling. He views Wilder as “not just doing a little good for a lot of people, but doing a lot of good for a lot of people.”

Dave, Sherla and Ron raised their kids to be aware of career, giving and volunteer opportunities that support the community. Pete—who is now married to Becky—says he and his wife now model these values for their own children.



Wilder by the Numbers

FISCAL YEAR 2020

People Served by Programs and Services

136

children helped by
Early Childhood
Development

2,048

individuals received
Mental Health and Wellness
services for a total of

55,678 service days,
averaging 27 days
of mental
wellness support
per client

415

students received
school-based
mental health
services

150

families participated
in the Family
Independence
Initiative

719

older adults and
caregivers served through
Healthy Aging &
Caregiving Services

252 Caregiver Services

124 Adult Day Health

125 Customized Living Services
for residents at Ravoux and
Hamline Hi-Rise

72 Health & Wellness
Classes

151 Meals on
Wheels



200

leaders activated
their potential through
community
leadership
programs

1,042

individuals aided by
Family Supportive
Housing
Services



50

families supported
with financial
assistance to
pay rent/
mortgage



25,153

Meals on Wheels
delivered



1,215

students
learned through
Achievement
Plus



288

community events
brought
50,646
people to
Wilder
Center



Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood

1,915+ students and families
received education initiatives and supports

2,000 families and community members
benefitted from civic engagement
and mutual aid resources

200+ families served
with wraparound
supports



African American Babies Coalition and Projects

50 mothers viewed educational videos
featuring authors and community members
reading stories for young kids

50 moms and their families received age-
appropriate and culturally specific books and supplies

40 families with infants received baby-and-me bags
with grocery gift cards

69 families received stipends, including 34 who were hit
with the economic consequences of the pandemic

189 attendees participated in the annual Fall Into Action,
Spring Into Action and Black Women's Awareness Dinner events

200 attendees joined the Black Birth Summit

Wilder Research

161 organizations served

268 reports produced

97 publications posted on the
public website

473 Wilder Research media mentions

3,413 people attended Wilder
Research presentations/trainings

72,840 total hours of
consultation

6,180 Twitter followers

1,385 Facebook
fans (MN
Compass)



DIVERSITY AT WILDER

As part of Wilder's commitment to diversity,
equity and inclusion, we hold ourselves
accountable to retain a workforce that is
representative of our community's diversity.
We will continue to improve our diversity
data collection and reporting.

AGE

- 15% 20-29 • 34% 30-39
- 22% 40-49 • 16% 50-59
- 11% 60-69 • 3% 70+

GENDER

76% Female
24% Male
<1% Non-binary/Transgender

VETERANS <1%

(DIS)ABILITY 3%

White
Asian
Black
Hispanic/Latino
Two or more races
Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander
Indigenous,
American Indian
or Alaskan Native

EMPLOYEES BY RACE

47%
25%
19%
5%
4%
<1%
<1%

LEADERSHIP BY RACE

64%
14%
16%
3%
3%
0%
0%

Financial Reports

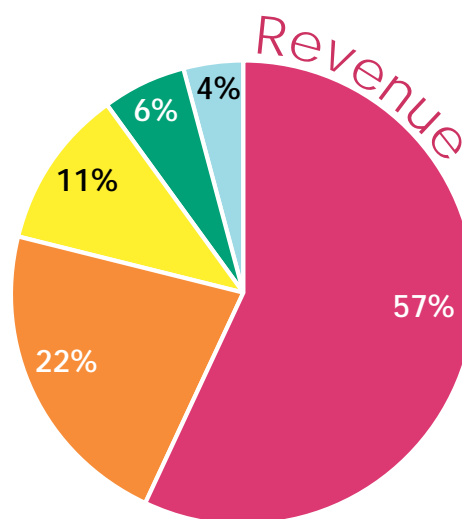
July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

Revenue

Sources of Dollars Used To Finance Operations

(In Millions)	FY 2020
● Government Contracts, Grants and Fees 57%	\$26.4
● Contributions and Private Grants 22%	10.3
● Wilder Foundation Endowment* 11%	5.1
● Consulting Revenues 6%	3.0
● Private Contracts, Insurance & Fees 4%	1.8
TOTAL OPERATING DOLLARS	\$46.6

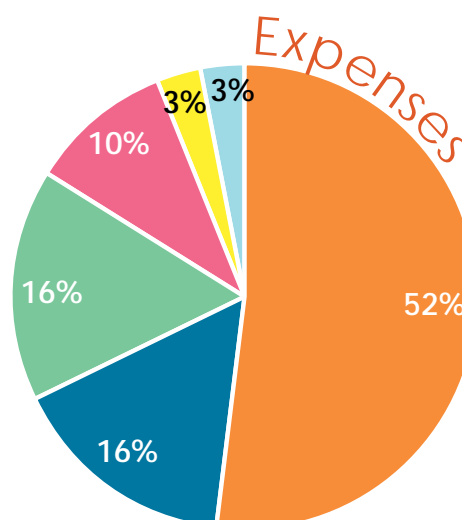
*Foundation endowment includes appropriated amount less endowment not spent.



Expenses

Expenditures By Service Group

(In Millions)	FY 2020
● Wilder Programs 52%	\$24.4
● Wilder Research 16%	7.2
● Administration 16%	7.3
● Wilder Center for Communities 10%	4.7
● Interest and Financial Expense 3%	1.5
● Fundraising 3%	1.5
TOTAL OPERATING DOLLARS	\$46.6



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

(In Millions)

Assets

	FY 2020
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2.2
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	9.7
Investments	126.4
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	28.0
Other Assets	6.5
TOTAL ASSETS	\$172.8

Liabilities and Net Assets

	FY 2020
Accounts Payable	\$1.5
Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities	7.8
Long-term Debt and Other Long-term Liabilities	52.8
Net Assets	110.7
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$172.8

The financial information is presented based on audited financials on an accrual accounting basis. Endowment use on a cash basis is approximately 11% (\$5.1 million) of total expenditures for FY2020.

Current Investment Policy

Over time, the investment goal for the Endowment Fund is to achieve a total return (current income plus market gain) of 5.0% plus the rate of inflation.

Current Spending Policy

The Foundation's policy for the use of endowment funding is based on a three-year goal to achieve 5% spend of the projected endowment balance by FY 2023. For FY 2020, the goal was set to 7% of the projected endowment balance on July 1, 2019. In establishing this policy, the Foundation considered the long-term expected return on the endowment and the need to preserve the endowment and not spend beyond returns over the long term. This is a shift in the spending formula adopted in 2018. This change is consistent with the Foundation's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets held in perpetuity or for a specified term as well as to provide additional real growth through new gifts and investment return.

Endowment Accounts Report

SUPPORTING FUNDS		Adjusted Principal Balance 7/1/2019	Net Investment Total Return	Amount Used for Donor Purpose	New Gifts/ Additions to Principal	Principal Balance 6/30/2020
Amherst H. Wilder Family Endowment		\$98,803,253	\$1,227,190	\$(4,643,627)	\$0	\$95,386,816
ADDITIONS TO THE WILDER FAMILY ENDOWMENT						
WILDER FOUNDATION GENERAL	Board Designated Fund (General)	206,871	2,569	(10,609)		198,831
	Hildegard H. Conkling Fund	150,925	1,875	(7,740)		145,060
	Lorraine M. Ellingsen Fund	1,298,237	16,125	(66,578)		1,247,784
	John and Ruth Goetz	90,334	1,122	(4,631)		86,825
	John Hauschild Corporate Administration Fund	54,887	682	(2,815)		52,754
	Adriana & Herman Hertog Memorial Fund	11,136	138	(571)		10,703
	Mary D. & Irving J. Jerry Endowment	186,859	2,321	(9,529)		179,651
	Kingston Fellowship Fund	819,816	10,183	(24,333)		805,666
	L. Frank & Irene Maistrovich Fund	91,768	1,140	(4,706)		88,202
	Charles Naumann McCloud, M.D. Memorial Fund	552,325	6,860	(28,327)		530,858
	Dorothy K. Merrill Fund	2,245,922	27,896	(115,180)		2,158,638
	Jeanne & George C. Power, Jr. Fund	9,744	121	(500)		9,365
	Robert H. Tucker Fund	17,014	211	(873)		16,352
	Paul W. & Lucille O. Werner Fund	9,106	113	(467)		8,752
	Richard and Winnie Wickworth Fund	26,045	323	(1,337)		25,031
	Anonymous Fund In Honor of Staff	17,922	223	(919)		17,226
SERVICES TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES	Board Designated Fund (Children & Families)	66,425	825	(3,407)		63,843
	Board Designated Fund (Children's Residential)	72,069	895	(3,699)		69,265
	Board Designated Fund (Housing)	25,261	314	(1,263)		24,312
	Board Designated Fund (Mental Health)	842	10	(43)		809
	Children's Health Care Fund	34,890	433	(1,789)		33,534
	Amy Benzick Memorial Fund	37,846	470	(1,941)		36,375
	Jean and Edgar Blanch Children's Fund	108,753	1,351	(5,574)		104,530
	Center for Children with Reactive Attachment Disorder	881,324	10,947	-		892,271
	Elisabeth W. Doermann Fund	90,619	1,126	(4,647)		87,098
	Dr. Phil Edwardson Fund for Children	12,913	160	(662)		12,411
	Mary E. Gillis Fund	51,986	646	(2,666)		49,966
	Dale A. Hoover Fund	47,061	585	(2,414)		45,232
	Kofi Forever Endowment Fund	91,305	1,134	(4,513)		87,926
	Frances & Verona LaBelle Children's Health Care Fund	18,341	228	(1,119)		17,450
	Margaret E. Lewis Fund for Children	0	-	-	349,281	349,281
	Roberta A. Mundschenk Children's Fund	75,606	939	(3,729)		72,816
	Harry T. & Helen I. Nagel Children's Fund	57,720	717	(3,007)		55,430
	Walter & Eleanor Nyberg Endowment Fund	56,256	699	(2,885)		54,070
	Sister Helen Louise Roth Fund	4,837	60	(382)		4,515
	Barbara and Phil Roy Family Fund	131,406	1,632	(6,407)		126,631
	Kathryn L. Schleich Inspiring A Village Learning Fund	61,929	769	(2,490)	20,000	80,208
	Leonard H. Tesmer Fund	212,593	2,641	(10,903)		204,331
	Victor M. Watkins Fund	948,920	11,786	(48,665)		912,041
	Mai Kou Xiong Fund for the Benefit of Hmong Youth	0	-	-	102,288	102,288
SERVICES TO OLDER ADULTS	Board Designated Fund (Older Adults)	44,232	549	(2,268)		42,513
	Elizabeth Bogared Elderly Services Fund	59,449	738	(15,730)		44,457
	Richard D. and Wyona M. Bartsch Elderly Services Fund	304,671	3,784	(2,937)		305,518
	Otto Link Elderly Services Fund	182,273	2,264	(9,098)		175,439
	Lawrence and Evelyn Kress Elderly Services Fund	64,814	805	(3,627)		61,992
	Leni Wilcox Fund for Community Services for Aging	5,401	67	(431)		5,037
	Anonymous Fund for Senior Services	142,540	1,770	(5,087)		139,223
WILDER CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES	Board Designated Fund (WCC)	6,550	81	(336)		6,295
	Ronnie Brooks Leadership Fund (Shannon Institute)	234,265	2,910	(12,013)		225,162
WILDER RESEARCH	Board Designated Fund (WR)	39,448	490	(2,023)	4,000	41,915
	Community Research Associates Fund	25,703	319	(1,318)		24,704
	Louise & George Mairs Fund for Community Research	856,183	10,634	(43,909)		822,908
	Anonymous Fund for Research	2,482,694	30,836	(127,324)		2,386,206
	Reta G. Youngman Research Fund	791,578	9,832	(40,596)		760,814
ADDITIONS TO WILDER ENDOWMENT SUBTOTAL		14,117,614	175,348	(658,016)	475,569	14,110,514
TOTAL WILDER FOUNDATION		112,920,867	1,402,541	(5,301,643)	475,569	109,497,330
BANK TRUST COMPANIES US Bank-Frank M. DeForce Fund		\$175,530	(\$2,370)	(\$8,755)		\$164,405
TOTAL FUNDS SUPPORTING WILDER FOUNDATION PROGRAMS		113,096,397	1,400,171	(5,310,398)	475,569	109,661,735

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We are grateful for our generous donors. Your gifts make our mission possible. Thank you!

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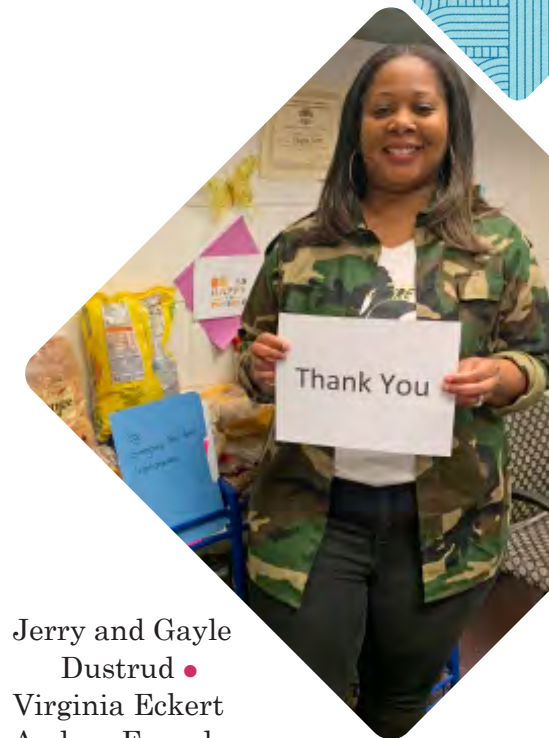
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**Save the Date: Ordinary Magic,
Friday, May 7, 2021, wilder.org/Magic**

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—Fred Speece,
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Remembering Paul Verret

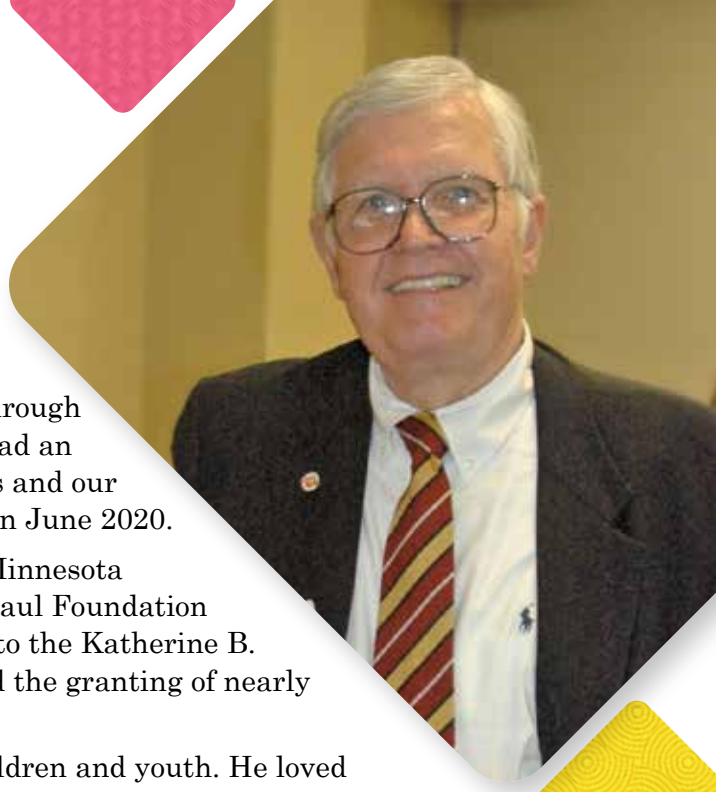
Paul Verret dedicated nearly his entire life to Saint Paul. Through his career, his influence, and his personal generosity, Paul had an immeasurable impact on Wilder's many community partners and our program and service participants. Sadly, Paul passed away in June 2020.

Paul began his career in philanthropy in 1972, leading the Minnesota Foundation—which started at Wilder—and then the Saint Paul Foundation for three decades. He continued in retirement as an advisor to the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation, and facilitated the granting of nearly \$3 million in support of Wilder's mission.

Paul was especially passionate about Wilder's work with children and youth. He loved to hear stories of young students working with school-based mental health therapists, youth receiving support after experiencing homelessness, and young leaders working with Wilder staff to use their voices and energy to change their community. Much of Paul and his wife's personal generosity supported this work as well.

"It is hard to single out a program," says Paul's wife, Carolyn. "He loved and valued the various works of Wilder and focused on the greatest need as needs changed over time."

Thank you, Paul, for all your contributions to Wilder and the community.



“ Paul had an ability to cross the chasm when talking with people from other cultures. He left staff with the profound sense that he got them, valued them, and would do his best to support their work. —Rudy Rousseau, clinical manager for Wilder school-based mental health



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SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPARK OF

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