



# A letter from our Chair

Mary Frey Bennett

When I think about the Frey Foundation, I am incredibly honored that our organization is part of the fabric of the communities we serve. Core to our organization is the belief that every thread in this fabric matters. Each thread has a place and a purpose. It is only when our threads are woven together that something beautiful and interesting is created. Our combined fabric is far stronger than a single thread alone.

Strengthening community threads and weaving in those on the fray requires intention. And when I look back over the past year at the Frey Foundation, working with intentionality is one of the things that strikes me most as a point of pride.

We've demonstrated intention as we've listened to the voices in the communities we serve. Though close in proximity, north and western Michigan are different places with different systems, different opportunities, and different resources. A one size fits all approach to serving these areas doesn't work. We've pushed to go deeper—to listen, understand, support solutions and build capacity in ways that honor the uniqueness of these special places.

We've shown intention in supporting grantees of all shapes and sizes. From Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in Northern Michigan, to Blandford Nature Center and First Steps Kent in West Michigan—and so many other incredible community partners in between. Each organization is doing evocative, poignant work that adds to the richness of the communities we serve. I am thrilled that our grantmaking supports this breadth. As a mid-sized funder, we can't be all things to all organizations, but we certainly can, and do, choose to engage a range of nonprofits doing amazing work to impact our four program areas.

Finally, our trustees and staff have worked through an organizational transition with such intention to ensure our long-term success. I am proud of our cohesion and steadfastness. I attribute much of it to Steve Wilson's leadership. Steve has been an incredible asset to this organization, and his presence will be missed. To stick with my opening analogy, Steve has forever changed the fabric of the Frey Foundation. He leaves us strong, focused and committed to being woven more deeply than ever in the communities we serve. For this, and for everything else he has done, we are thankful.

On behalf of the trustees and staff of the Frey Foundation, thank you for the role you play in strengthening the fabric of your community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Frey Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**FREY FOUNDATION**

40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 1100, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 | [www.freyfdn.org](http://www.freyfdn.org) | 616.451.0303