The Legacy of Love Continues

A Message from Board Chair Mary Frey Bennett

On a glorious day last May, I had the distinct honor of unveiling Robert Indiana’s LOVE sculpture in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. Surrounded by my fellow trustees, extended family, and members of the community, this day will forever be etched in my mind. It was a poignant moment—filled with joy, pride, hope and, of course, love.

The LOVE sculpture pays homage to our family’s history and commitment to the arts as an essential part of a vibrant community. It also serves as a landmark for our future—a place where future generations will connect with our family’s story and the legacy of love for the communities we serve.

This love is demonstrated through our role as a place-based grant maker. Our annual report highlights the outstanding work of our grantee organizations in West and Northern Michigan.

In addition to the grants featured in our Stories of Impact, our board is incredibly proud of the work accomplished this year with our Housing Innovation Award. This was the foundation’s first venture into prize philanthropy, and it represents years of research and planning. We set our sights on moving the needle on housing insecurity on behalf of ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families and to do so, tested a new approach aimed at sparking innovation and creating collaborations. This was a wonderful demonstration of our commitment to learning and listening for emerging opportunities to make an impact on those we seek to serve.

Another significant milestone for the Frey Foundation this year was welcoming our new President, Holly Johnson. Holly’s background in community philanthropy is a perfect complement to the place-based approach of the Frey Foundation. We are excited to have her as a part of our team and look forward to working together in the years to come.

As we turn to the future, my biggest hope is that as a foundation, we continue to lead with love, allowing it to unify us and approach change with compassion. By doing this for the communities we are entrusted to serve, we will be living our purpose.

With gratitude,

Mary Frey Bennett

FREY FOUNDATION

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