The J. J. Keller Foundation is a private family foundation established by Jack and Ethel Keller in 1991. The Foundation focus is to support the most vulnerable in our community through basic needs, understanding mental health, driving innovation and supporting collaboration. Here is a breakdown of how we supported over 250 nonprofits in 2020 with grants totaling nearly $4 million.
THE GIVING EFFECT | 2020: BEYOND THE NUMBERS

While the numbers might look impressive, the impact of our work went far beyond the numbers. We are a foundation that cares about people and solving problems. This is evidenced by 115 pages of staff notes from conversations with nonprofits since the start of COVID. We needed to respond faster, convene stakeholders, and re-imagine how we could offer solutions at scale in an efficient and accessible way.

Key initiatives in the first 90-days were to:

- Provide mental health organizations with the technology needed to support a shift to telehealth.
- Support shelters throughout the region to adapt requirements to quarantine incoming clients and positive cases with hotel rooms.
- Leverage relationships to provide volunteers for weekly mobile food pantries throughout the region.
- Provide training to 84 nonprofit leaders to support communication during uncertain times.

A typical request from submission to payment averaged 33 days in our existing process; we were able to get this down to seven days. We leveraged our network to share opportunities that did not align with us. We convened and facilitated regular calls with 40 funders from Oshkosh to Green Bay. Collectively, funders shared nonprofit needs and provided more than $5M in grants in six months.

We coordinated a centralized PPE initiative through Valley Packaging Industries to provide free PPE to over 60 Nonprofits in NE Wisconsin. The regional PPE initiative was supported by 12 funders and businesses to help navigate vendors and supply chains, bulk purchase appropriate PPE supplies, manage inventory, and even repackage 40-gallon drums of hand sanitizer into usable sizes and coordinate the OSHA regulations.

With collaboration as a bedrock to our foundation values, we were able to inspire others to think and give differently. The Foundation’s fingerprints are on many connections, transformations, and results in this community.
MILESTONE GRANTS TO CELEBRATE 30 YEARS AND $70 MILLION IN GIVING

The philanthropic spirit of the late John J. & Ethel D. Keller has had wide-ranging impact throughout the greater Fox Valley region. The couple began their family’s legacy of giving with a $20 grant to the American Cancer Society in 1991. In December of 2021, the J. J. Keller Foundation celebrates 30 years with three grants totaling $200,000 to honor the organization’s past, present and future while supporting the most vulnerable in our region.

Ethel always said, ‘Everyone can give something. If you don’t have money, give of your time and your talents,’ which was the impetus behind these grants. They continue to inspire us to give differently.

Winnebago County Literary Council

$30,000 grant

This grant will assist the Winnebago County Literacy Council in addressing one of the root causes of poverty - access to appropriate educational opportunities and building relationships with tutors who want to see individuals succeed.

Transitions to Success

$70,000 grant

A grant was awarded to the Transitions to Success program to support youth who are transitioning out of foster care to independent living in the Green Bay area. The six-organization collaboration also maintains the connections in youths’ personal and community lives, offering stability, continuity, and support after turning 18.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin

$100,000 grant

This grant was awarded to Big Brothers Big Sisters to develop a future framework for innovating volunteer recruitment for Bigs and testing individualized growth plans for Littles – creating connections to help youth thrive with the help of a caring adult.
2021 SUMMARY OF GIVING

“Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by discomfort.” – Arnold Bennett

The J.J. Keller Foundation often talks about growth happening through discomfort. Change takes us out of our comfort zone and requires us to adapt and stretch in ways that lead to new opportunities. The last few years have taken many beyond their comfort zone. Our community is very different than it was at the start of the Foundation 30 years ago.

YEAR-TO-DATE GRANTS
$4,862,956.78

- Capacity Building
  $1,435,030.00 (29.51%)
- Collaborative
  $914,926.78 (18.81%)
- Innovation
  $5,250.00 (0.11%)
- Program Support
  $1,036,750.00 (21.32%)
- Unrestricted Operational Support
  $1,471,000.00 (30.25%)

On December 15th, we surprised three organizations with grants totaling $200,000. Here are their responses:

**Thank you again, we are beyond humbled and grateful for this important recognition and assure you and the Foundation these critically important funds will enable more of our young people to achieve true life success!**

**Matt Valiquette, Bay Area Workforce Development Board**

**I am still smiling over this generous gift and as you know, I am formulating a plan right now. We will be able to expand the Road to Work program immediately and just in time as the numbers of new refugees for the area continue to rise each week. This has literally come at the perfect time!**

**Tom Perry, Winnebago Area Literacy Council**
The story of giving through the J. J. Keller Foundation continues.
Check out these videos to see the ripples of change made in our community.

JJKELLERFOUNDATION.ORG