

# McCune Foundation

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## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# **McCUNE FOUNDATION**

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## **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## Chairman's Statement 2025

*The McCune Foundation supports non-profit organizations that advance the quality of life for the people of southwestern Pennsylvania by fostering community vitality and economic growth to improve the region for current and future generations.*

The McCune Foundation was established in 1979 by the will of Charles L. McCune. The donor, a Director of The Union National Bank of Pittsburgh for 56 years, served as its President from 1945 until 1972, and then as Chairman of the Board until his death. His life was spent providing capital to people with good ideas and the ability to execute them.

Charles McCune also gave generously to charitable organizations, mostly in the Pittsburgh area, while seeking no public recognition of his philanthropy. He established the Foundation in memory of his parents, Janet Lockhart McCune and John Robison McCune. He left us a legacy less of what to do, and more of how to do it. As those who knew him will attest, his style of dealing with people and with challenges would be described as purposeful, simple, and direct. The Foundation he created continues to provide capital to people with good ideas and the ability to execute them.

In the McCune Foundation's establishing documents, Mr. McCune required that all the assets of the Foundation be paid out in grants by October 16, 2029, and the Foundation cease operation on that date. The 2016 Chairman's Statement gave a history of the major decisions the Distribution Committee has made to meet this requirement. Our commitment to the Sunset Strategy was made fully apparent in 2017. While our work continues in the Education, Health and Human Services, Humanities and Civic program areas, we no longer organize our grantmaking around these categories. Now, our Sunset Strategy deals with Sunset Grants, Concept Testing, Readiness and Ending Well with each being described in the Annual Report.

In reviewing the work of the Foundation in 2025, the Distribution Committee disbursed 93 new and conditional grants totaling \$41,808,750. The 2025 Annual Report lists these grants. Our average grant size this year was \$449,556. One-third of our grants in 2025, reflecting 78% of all dollars granted, were dedicated to the Sunset Strategy. The spending rate this year was 31% of the assets invested at the end of the fiscal year. Given the spend-down nature of our work, we continue to see these amounts increase on an annual basis as more and more of our grantmaking efforts are guided by the Sunset Strategy.

### **The Work We Do**

These grant amounts – and the Sunset Strategy that has been memorialized in prior chair letters – are guided by the '1/n' rule that Mr. McCune included in the Foundation's founding documents. The '1/n' rule provides a requirement that in any given year the amount of grant dollars must be equal to or greater than '1/n' of the Foundation assets at the beginning of the year – with 'n' being equal the number of years left until October 16, 2029. Foundation staff dutifully track this number on both a historic and forward-looking basis to inform grant planning and ensure the Foundation remains compliant with its founding documents.

In addition to informing staff's grantmaking work, tracking '1/n' also provides us all with a constant reminder of when the Foundation will cease to exist – and how much (or little) time is left to finalize our operations. It tells us that in less than four years from this moment, a 50-year organization

currently staffed by 5 experienced and dedicated full-time employees and supported by a committed Distribution Committee of 7 volunteers will go out of business.

The comparison to business is an applicable, if not imperfect, analogy for the operational focus of the foundation in the coming years. In the history of business, few companies have known in advance when they will go out of business – even fewer (if any) were started with the intention of going out of business on a specific future date. The McCune Foundation, however, is an exception. And the work we do has been evolving as a result.

Whereas in the past 100% of staff's focus was on grantmaking, today we are asking them to research and plan how to wind down Foundation operations. Whereas in the past Distribution Committee meetings were focused on non-profit efforts and regional trends, today we balance grantmaking with operational decision making. Whereas in the past our time with the Trustee could focus on financial performance of the Foundation assets and ensure our compliance with Mr. McCune's will, today we are ensuring alignment with the Trustee in all aspects of the operational winddown. The speed of this shift has only increased as the 'n' has decreased.

Executing at a high level on grantmaking to ensure all assets are distributed by 2029 while increasing focus on operational topics has required a great degree of flexibility and nimbleness across everyone involved. Staff, Distribution Committee members, and the Trustee have all risen to this sometimes-daunting challenge in a manner that has been remarkable to witness. I am deeply grateful to all these individuals for their time, effort, and commitment to what is a rapidly evolving process.

### **Looking Ahead**

Since 2013 the family cohort of the Distribution Committee has been a generational mix – representing family members either two or three generations removed from Mr. McCune. This approach provides the Committee with a breadth of experience and perspective while creating an opportunity for younger McCune generations to develop and enhance our philanthropic 'muscle'.

The generational mix – which initially skewed to the older generation – has slowly been shifting to the younger generation. This past year represented a tipping point when "next gen-er" Lisa Storey joined the Committee at our January 2025 meeting. At that moment, for the first time ever, the majority of family members on the Committee were represented by the younger generation three times removed from Mr. McCune.

Why is this notable? It means most of the family members on the Committee have not met "Uncle Charles". We did not eat holiday meals with him, receive gifts from him, or spend time with him on his property in Coraopolis. Despite this, we are eagerly committed to bringing the work he laid out for us to a completion in 2029 while also stewarding his legacy in the region. I look forward to Lisa's participation in and contribution to this effort and thank her in advance for the valuable input she will no doubt bring to us.

Adam B. Edwards  
Chairman

## **DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE**

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*Adam B. Edwards*  
*Chairman*

*John M. Edwards*  
*Vice Chairman*

*Brooks Broadhurst*

*James V. Denova*

*Karen L. Hanlon*

*Sarah McCune Losinger*

*Lisa Storey*

## **STAFF**

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*Laurel S. Randi*  
*Executive Director*

*Rachel E. Cypher*  
*Administrative Services Manager*

*Valerie L. Fahrny*  
*Grants Manager*

*Michele A. Krugh*  
*Program Associate*

*Stephanie K. McCarthy*  
*Senior Program Officer*

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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## 2025 GRANTS PROGRAM

In 2025, the McCune Foundation paid 93 new and conditional grants totaling \$41,808,750. In alignment with the Foundation's Sunset strategy, grants are assigned to one of three grant types: Sunset, Standard, and PRI Redeployment, each of which also has multiple subcategories. These three grant types, and their relevance to the Sunset strategy, are described below.

### SUNSET

Sunset grants are a completion of a body of work with a grantee, representing the culmination of a series of engagements in a specific area of impact or an investment in the organization as a whole. In keeping with the Sunset strategy, each Sunset grant is unique, guided by the organization's history with the Foundation, its specific needs, the opportunities present, and the local context within which it is operating. All Sunset grants are aligned and additive to an organization's existing priorities, as evidenced by a current strategic plan or strategy document, even if the strategies are yet to be fully implemented.

### Highlights

In 2025, the Foundation awarded 31 Sunset grants totaling \$32,355,000. The Human Services area received the highest number of grants, and the largest amount of funding went to Education. In addition, the Foundation awarded 10 Sunset Planning Discretionary Grants (SPDG) totaling \$350,000 in support of a potential Sunset grant.

### Sunset

Adelphoi Village, Inc.  
\$3,000,000

*Toward a facilities maintenance endowment.*

Allegheny College  
\$9,000,000

*Toward \$15,000,000 to endow the Community Impact Hub (CIH) (\$13,900,000), and for year one programming (\$590,000) and functional updates to a physical location for CIH in downtown Meadville (\$510,000).*

Angels' Place, Inc.  
\$1,325,000

*For a family scholarship endowment (\$1,000,000) and facility improvements (\$325,000).*

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| Attack Theatre, Inc.<br>\$125,000                           | <i>Toward \$315,000 for the implementation of a strategic financial plan.</i>  |
| Bach Choir of Pittsburgh<br>\$90,000                        | <i>Toward \$190,000 for a marketing and outreach strategy, and operational efficiencies.</i>   |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh<br>\$315,000 | <i>Toward \$550,000 for capacity building and operational improvements.</i>  |
| Bike Pittsburgh, Inc.<br>\$150,000                          | <i>Toward \$250,000 for capacity building for revenue generation and working capital.</i>  |
| Chatham Baroque<br>\$100,000                                | <i>Toward \$250,000 for phase one of a business model transition.</i>  |
| Construction Junction, Inc.<br>\$185,000                    | <i>Toward \$570,000 for building internal capacity.</i>  |
| Duquesne University<br>\$250,000                            | <i>Toward \$750,000 for the Center for Integrative Health staff investments and capacity building.</i>                                   |
| Global Links<br>\$125,000                                   | <i>Toward \$250,000 for a Chief of Staff position and professional development.</i>  |
| Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh<br>\$50,000                  | <i>Toward \$450,000 for business model development, programmatic planning, and branding to create the new Tree of Life organization.</i> |
| Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh<br>\$350,000  | <i>Toward renovations to the Squirrel Hill facility for program expansion.</i>   |
| Lifesteps, Inc.<br>\$3,000,000                              | <i>Toward the Assistive Technologies Hybrid Fund.</i>  |

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania

\$300,000

*Toward \$750,000 for Phase Two of scaling its homeownership model.*

New Hazlett Center for the Performing Arts

\$175,000

*Toward \$300,000 for the implementation of a capitalization plan.*

North Hills Affordable Housing, Inc. dba HEARTH

\$100,000

*Toward \$200,000 for improved safety and service enhancements.*

Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation

\$4,700,000

*Toward \$5,500,000 for a facilities endowment (\$5,000,000) and operating reserve (\$500,000).*

Riverview Children's Center

\$1,500,000

*Toward a Quality Care Endowment for staff wages and benefits.*

Robert Morris University

\$2,000,000

*Toward a financial aid endowment to support retention of low-income students (\$1,500,000) and to provide additional financial aid to incoming freshmen in 2025 (\$500,000).*

Silver Eye Center for Photography

\$150,000

*Toward \$300,000 for capitalization plan implementation.*

Squirrel Hill Health Center

\$500,000

*Toward \$3,000,000 for working capital (\$1,000,000), the establishment of a rainy-day fund (\$1,500,000), and due diligence for a future central site (\$500,000).*

Sweetwater Art Center

\$100,000

*Toward \$375,000 for change capital to strengthen the organization's financial model.*

Touchstone Center for Crafts

\$2,500,000

*Toward campus expansion & capitalization.*



# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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Trade Institute of Pittsburgh

\$15,000

*Toward \$145,000 for building a sustainable giving program.*

VisAbility

(formerly known as the Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh)

\$650,000

*Toward an endowed scholarship fund (\$450,000) and a facility & equipment reserve (\$200,000).*

Wilksburg Community Development Corporation

\$750,000

*Toward a property reserve for the Train Station & Lohr Building.*

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

\$750,000

*Toward \$2,250,000 to establish a facility endowment fund (\$1,500,000) and to create an internal endowed staff sabbatical program (\$750,000).*

YouthPlaces

\$100,000

*Toward \$175,000 for strategic business planning and a working capital reserve.*

## STANDARD

Standard grants are a continuation of the Foundation's historical grantmaking program but have taken on new forms in service of the Sunset strategy. They are usually five- or six-figure grants. Standard grants encompass the following:

- **Concept Testing** grants fund organizations to pilot and assess strategic (and often transformational) opportunities, typically over multiple years, prior to considering a Sunset request;
- **Readiness** grants help organizations address business model changes or other capacity or infrastructure needs in advance of a prospective Sunset grant;
- **Special Project** grants respond to time-sensitive opportunities, emergency needs requests, broad community efforts, projects benefitting multiple grantees, or other one-time/short-term discrete projects in alignment with the Foundation's mission and values; and
- **Director's Discretionary Grants** support time-sensitive projects or other purposes outside of a Sunset grant trajectory.

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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## Highlights

In 2025, the Foundation awarded 61 Standard grants totaling \$9,303,750. The Human Services area received the highest number of grants and the largest amount of funding.

## Concept Testing

Allegheny Land Trust

\$115,000

*Toward \$250,000 to continue refining the urban Community Conservation model.*

Chatham University

\$140,000

*Toward \$850,000 for the creation of the Academic Success Center to improve student retention.*

City Theatre Company, Inc.

\$25,000

*Toward the continuation of Pittsburgh Producing Theaters Consortium Phase II efforts.*

Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Science Center  
(formerly known as Carnegie Science Center)

\$350,000

*Toward \$700,000 to pilot a Rapid Science Engagement Initiative.*

DePaul School for Hearing and Speech

\$150,000

*Toward \$350,000 to launch an apprenticeship model for teachers of the deaf by replicating the Grow-Your-Own Teacher apprenticeship model for specialized teachers.*

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

\$250,000

*Toward \$500,000 for The Impact Lab pilot.*

Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania

\$800,000

*Toward \$2,478,750 for the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (now known as Elevate NP).*

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

\$475,000

*Toward \$2,450,000 for continued development of the Collective Impact Initiative focused on community-driven solutions to increase food access.*

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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|--|-----------|--|
| Grove City College                       | \$85,000  | <i>Toward \$255,000 to expand the E + I Fellows Program beyond a pilot phase.</i>  |
| La Roche University                      | \$165,000 | <i>Toward \$212,500 for business and fund development planning for the Introcaso Center for Lifelong Learning.</i>                       |
| Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Inc. | \$250,000 | <i>Toward \$500,000 for a pilot project for sustainable trail maintenance training, certification, and organizational effectiveness.</i> |
| Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera             | \$125,000 | <i>Toward the continuation of Pittsburgh Producing Theaters Consortium Phase II efforts.</i>   |
| Pittsburgh Public Theater Corporation    | \$100,000 | <i>Toward the continuation of Pittsburgh Producing Theaters Consortium Phase II efforts.</i>   |
| Presbyterian SeniorCare Network          | \$150,000 | <i>To continue concept testing for the Center for Innovation &amp; Care Transformation.</i>  |
| Westminster College                      | \$87,500  | <i>Toward \$175,000 as bridge support for the Comprehensive Program for Advancing Student Success.</i>                                   |

## Readiness

|  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania | \$330,000 | <i>Toward \$535,000 for growing contributed revenue and facility upgrades and replacements.</i> |
| Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh             | \$355,000 | <i>Toward \$405,000 for shared services planning and pilot launches.</i>                        |
| City of Asylum Pittsburgh                  | \$50,000  | <i>Toward \$150,000 for the creation of a Director of Development position.</i>                 |

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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Community Theater Project Corporation / Kelly-Strayhorn Theater  
\$125,000      *Toward \$250,000 for comprehensive real estate planning for a new location.*

Extra Mile Education Foundation  
\$67,500      *Toward \$237,500 for building fundraising and marketing capacity.*

Familylinks, Inc.  
\$650,000      *Toward costs associated with exploring strategic partnerships.*

Hill Dance Academy Theatre  
\$250,000      *Toward board and staff capacity building and planning, culminating in an Institutional Plan.*

Kingsley Association  
\$100,000      *Toward \$370,000 for increased fundraising capacity and physical infrastructure enhancements to support revenue generation.*

North Hills Community Outreach  
\$200,000      *Toward capacity building for future sustainability.*

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System  
\$30,000      *Toward \$100,000 to increase community engagement capacity.*

Pittsburgh Public Theater Corporation  
\$225,000      *Toward \$595,000 for capitalization plan implementation investments.*

Pittsburgh Symphony Inc.  
\$300,000      *Toward \$750,000 to build the Symphony's capacity to improve first-year ticket buyer retention rates.*

Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation  
\$39,000      *Toward \$800,000 for investments in staff capacity, safety and security improvements at the Carrie Furnace site.*

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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Sojourner House  
\$130,000      *Toward governance and staff development, facility improvements, and capacity building for revenue generation.*

South Hills Interfaith Movement  
\$45,000      *Toward \$250,000 for development and staff capacity investments for sustainability.*

The Community Foundation of Fayette County  
\$175,000      *Toward \$235,000 for increasing capacity for growth and impact.*

The Mattress Factory, Ltd.  
\$185,000      *Toward \$350,000 for capacity investments to support earned revenue.*

Union Project  
\$350,000      *Toward strategic facility improvements.*

YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh  
\$430,000      *Toward \$800,000 for change capital for business model evolutions.*

YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh  
\$125,000      *Toward \$250,000 to build staff capacity in volunteer engagement and marketing.*

## Special Project

Carlow University  
\$350,000      *Toward the Western Pennsylvania Higher Education Consortium.*

East Liberty Family Health Care Center  
\$300,000      *Toward transitional operating support.*

Eradicate Hate Global Summit  
\$150,000      *Toward \$450,000 for 2024 - 2026 program support.*

# McCUNE FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Fiscal Year 2025*

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New Sun Rising

\$115,000

*Toward \$230,000 for the continuation of the Investment Education Program.*

POISE Foundation

\$250,000

*Toward \$500,000 for the Sabbatical program continuation in 2025 and 2026.*

Saint Vincent College

\$160,000

*Toward \$250,000 for the Fred Rogers Archive Digitization project.*

## Director's Discretionary Grants

The Foundation made eight grants of \$75,000 or less, totaling \$199,750.

## PRI REDEPLOYMENT

The Foundation made one redeployment of \$150,000 to the Industrial Arts Workshop for its efforts in Hazelwood.

The Foundation assigned ownership of its Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse PRI position totaling \$377,577 to Innovation Works.

## Historical Grant Totals

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Grants</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Total</u>  | <u>Grants</u> |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1980        | \$1,909,500  | 101           | 2011        | \$21,165,500  | 174           |
| 1981        | \$2,385,000  | 94            | 2012        | \$102,412,861 | 147           |
| 1982        | \$3,308,500  | 99            | 2013        | \$25,986,115  | 134           |
| 1983        | \$3,874,500  | 89            | 2014        | \$27,018,000  | 140           |
| 1984        | \$3,857,300  | 49            | 2015        | \$28,204,500  | 130           |
| 1985        | \$12,149,310 | 56            | 2016        | \$27,499,927  | 132           |
| 1986        | \$13,144,265 | 45            | 2017        | \$28,981,770  | 122           |
| 1987        | \$11,234,258 | 30            | 2018        | \$30,999,475  | 115           |
| 1988        | \$10,158,285 | 39            | 2019        | \$34,130,100  | 93            |
| 1989        | \$13,364,994 | 37            | 2020        | \$39,694,954  | 161           |
| 1990        | \$15,289,998 | 39            | 2021        | \$38,279,015  | 138           |
| 1991        | \$13,358,171 | 39            | 2022        | \$51,288,575  | 90            |
| 1992        | \$11,613,467 | 43            | 2023        | \$42,730,959  | 89            |
| 1993        | \$13,616,950 | 72            | 2024        | \$47,572,750  | 94            |
| 1994        | \$13,555,400 | 111           | 2025        | \$41,808,750  | 93            |
| 1995        | \$13,825,050 | 99            |             |               |               |
| 1996        | \$16,341,104 | 131           |             |               |               |
| 1997        | \$21,480,575 | 142           |             |               |               |
| 1998        | \$28,087,930 | 160           |             |               |               |
| 1999        | \$29,331,700 | 161           |             |               |               |
| 2000        | \$28,391,003 | 143           |             |               |               |
| 2001        | \$27,858,921 | 185           |             |               |               |
| 2002        | \$25,375,494 | 188           |             |               |               |
| 2003        | \$23,612,390 | 197           |             |               |               |
| 2004        | \$25,597,625 | 201           |             |               |               |
| 2005        | \$27,309,422 | 194           |             |               |               |
| 2006        | \$26,792,859 | 213           |             |               |               |
| 2007        | \$28,941,100 | 170           |             |               |               |
| 2008        | \$27,049,256 | 183           |             |               |               |
| 2009        | \$18,251,789 | 165           |             |               |               |
| 2010        | \$19,630,510 | 172           |             |               |               |