



# SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation makes a healthy difference in communities by advancing health equity and improving conditions where people live, learn, work and play.

## WE'RE HERE TO IMPROVE HEALTH ACROSS MINNESOTA

We are a 501(c)(3), private non-operating foundation with assets dedicated exclusively to improving health in Minnesota.

## 2018: \$3 MILLION IN GRANTS

Each year we identify specific focus areas where we believe our grantmaking can make the greatest impact. In 2018, the majority of grants will support early childhood programs, safe and welcoming communities, and continued work on access to coverage.

Behind the Foundation's grantmaking is research showing that of all the factors that influence health socioeconomic factors account for a full 40 percent of health outcomes. These factors include:

- **Early Childhood Education.** Quality early childhood care and education sets the stage for lifelong health. Children living in poverty receive the greatest gains from quality early childhood programs.
- **Community Safety.** A safe community is crucial for healthy outcomes. Trauma and the chronic stress of unsafe neighborhoods and environments harm health.
- **Employment.** Employment provides the tools for a healthy life. Unemployment and job insecurity cause stress and limit access to basic necessities.
- **Income.** Income creates the opportunity for health. In every racial or ethnic group, health status improves as income increases.
- **Family and Social Support.** Better social support means better health. People with greater support and less isolation live longer, healthier lives.

Photo courtesy of Little Earth of United Tribes.

**\$55M**  
TOTAL AWARDED  
SINCE 1986

**\$3M**  
funding in 2018

**60** AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF ACTIVE GRANTS

**\$70K**  
AVERAGE  
GRANT SIZE

**1986**  
YEAR FOUNDED

**80%** OF GRANTEEES  
have multiyear grants

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Frank Fernández, JD** | President and CEO, Blue Plus; Vice President, Government Programs, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota; Foundation Board Vice Chair

**Bukata Hayes** | Executive Director, Greater Mankato Diversity Council

**Shirley Hughes** | Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Ceridian Corporation (retired)

**Rochelle Myers** | Vice President, Strategic Planning and Portfolio Management, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

**John Orner** | Vice President, Treasury and Investments, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

**Tom Vanderheyden** | Executive Vice President and President, Diversified Business, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota; Foundation Board Chair

**Nancy Vyskocil** | President and CEO, Northwest Minnesota Foundation

## FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

**Carolyn Link** | President, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact [foundation@bluecrossmnfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@bluecrossmnfoundation.org), visit [bluecrossmnfoundation.org](http://bluecrossmnfoundation.org), or call **(651) 662-3950** or toll free **1-866-812-1593**.

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