

# GRATITUDE & THE GREATER GOOD

Silver Maples Development  
Impact Report 2023 - 2024



## Acknowledgments

**Writing**

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**Editing**

Silver Maples Staff, Residents, & Friends

**Graphic Design**

Betzer & Head Creative Studio

**Printing**

Dollar Bill Printing



# WELCOME

## The Silver Maples "Feeling"

At Silver Maples we have a passion for life, our friendships, our neighbors, and for the team of people who provide leadership and caring services to our community.

Silver Maples is known for its warm sense of community, which is fostered by compassionate leadership and embraced by staff and residents alike. Through enriching experiences, residents develop meaningful relationships among friends, family, and the greater community.

Silver Maples is committed to providing a healthy, secure, and supportive place for older adults to call home. We are proud of and thankful for all that Silver Maples provides and understand that exemplary service is often achieved with a little, or a lot of, help coming from gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Many of our programs are funded in part or fully by generous gifts that help us fulfill our mission.

The pages that follow will summarize the difference that philanthropy has made at Silver Maples of Chelsea between October 2023 and September 2024. We hope you enjoy reading about it.



## OUR MISSION & CORE VALUES

Silver Maples of Chelsea Retirement Neighborhood is a vibrant community that excels at creating and supporting a positive aging experience.

### Create Joy

We will foster enriching experiences that inspire individual growth and fulfillment for residents and team members.

### Build Community

We will create opportunities to build and develop meaningful relationships among our community, family, and friends.

### Promote Wellness

We will provide a healthy, secure, and supportive place to live and work.



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## A Bright And Meaningful Future

In June of 2023, Silver Maples of Chelsea became a locally owned 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is jointly sponsored by 5 Healthy Towns Foundation and Silver Maples, Inc.

Silver Maples continues to operate independently, with a sponsorship structure that paves the way to become independent of any sponsors if desired and allows the organization to remain financially strong, with a very bright future!

Our community remains as vibrant as ever, excelling at creating and supporting a positive aging experience as one of the highest performing communities in our industry. This is, in part, because of the generosity of donors who consistently support our organization. Today, Silver Maples Development has 14 funds totaling approximately **\$2,480,997**.

## Celebrating Two Years of Growth and Collaboration

Two years ago, I stepped into Silver Maples for my first day of work, excited to learn, grow, and contribute to this incredible community. Since then, together, we have not only deepened the connections that make Silver Maples so special but also transformed how development supports and enriches our community.

In these two years, we've grown and expanded the role of development to reflect what matters most to our residents and employees. We've shaped development to be more than just fundraising; it's about fostering relationships, building partnerships, and ensuring that every initiative enhances the sense of home and purpose we all feel here at Silver Maples.

From launching new funds that directly impact residents and employees to hosting events that bring joy and connection, we've redefined what development looks like. Together, we've shown how philanthropy can create opportunities, empower people, and sustain the vibrant community we all cherish.

As we move into 2025, I'm proud of how far we've come and excited about where we're headed. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping to shape development into a meaningful force for growth and connection at Silver Maples.

May you have a safe, healthy, and joyous holiday season! Warmly,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine Bradley".

Kristine Bradley,  
Director of Development

# THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, and unique capabilities that our residents, employees, and volunteers bring to Silver Maples is a significant part of not only our culture, but our reputation and company's achievement as well.

Embracing and encouraging our differences and learning from each other's background and experiences makes our community whole.

## Board of Directors

Silver Maples President & CEO  
Steve Petty  
James Randolph  
Jessica Stubbs  
Elizabeth Pielsticker  
Todd Raehtz  
Eric Stalhanske

## Staff

Kristine Bradley, *Director of Development*  
Silver Maples President & CEO

## Development Committee

Howard Brooks, *Villa Resident*  
Rick Gerteisen, *Maples Resident*  
Phyllis Green, *Meadows Resident*  
Dan Hunter, *Maples Resident*  
Ross Margeson, *Maples Resident*  
Judy Osmun, *Maples Resident*  
Jack Smythe, *Maples Resident*  
Dan Stack, *Villa Resident*  
Don Thiel, *Maples Resident*  
Ellen Thompson, *Villa Resident*  
Barbara Zikmund, *Villas Resident*



## RESIDENT IMPACT

There are many examples of how gifts have impacted the lives of residents throughout the last year. We offer a few representative examples on the pages that follow.



## NEW Resident Life Enrichment Fund: Shaped by Residents, Enriching Lives

We are proud to introduce the Resident Enrichment Fund at Silver Maples of Chelsea, launched in 2024 through a generous \$10,000 anonymous donation. This transformative fund is dedicated to enhancing the variety, quality, and accessibility of programs and activities available to our residents, fostering meaningful opportunities for connection, learning, and exploration.

Although newly launched, the fund has already begun to make a difference by supporting our first Silver Maples lecture series. In the future, it will enable the addition of expert-led workshops, cultural events, and recreational programs tailored to the unique interests of our community.

The Resident Enrichment Fund also provides critical support to our Life Enrichment Director, Winn Nichols and Assistant Director, Jenine "Chip" Grover. By funding the involvement of expert instructors and

teachers, they can dedicate more time to working closely with Resident Committees, engaging directly with residents, and further developing the enrichment program to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Additionally, the fund will sponsor select off-campus outings, giving residents the opportunity to enjoy local attractions, cultural events, and recreational activities without the burden of ticket costs. These outings not only provide memorable experiences but also strengthen the connection between our residents and the wider community.

The Resident Enrichment Fund represents our commitment to creating a vibrant, dynamic environment at Silver Maples. We are deeply grateful for the generosity that made this initiative possible and look forward to the growing impact it will have on our residents and their daily lives.



## Innovating Resident Care with the Greater Good Fund

In 2024, the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund supported the trial of Huron Valley Ambulance's (HVA's) Community Paramedic program to enhance on-site medical care and reduce emergency room visits for residents.

The trial revealed that most Silver Maples residents' needs are acute and often emergent. This information led Samantha Snyder, our Silver Maples Director of Social Work, to look for a better option to enhance health services for residents and more efficiently steward funds gifted and entrusted to Silver Maples.

It is exciting to share that, moving forward, the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund will continue to support the safety of Silver Maples residents by providing each resident household with a HVA Members Plus membership. As the result of creative problem solving between Silver Maples staff and residents, this transition will increase the coverage of services utilized by residents while also costing significantly less in years to come.

As a direct result of our ability to test programs through philanthropy, Silver Maples is able to transition to the Members Plus program and reduce the total annual cost of our partnership with Huron Valley Ambulance from \$21,600 to less than \$7,500 next year.

The HVA Member Plus Membership Covers:

Out-of-pocket cost for medically necessary (HVA) ambulance transports.

Two fall evaluations/lift & assists per household per membership year.





## Fresh Music Brightens Silver Maples Choir

Residents and friends of the Silver Maples Choir helped to expand its music collection through gifts to the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund. **\$197** worth of new music purchased by Silver Maples Development in 2024 has allowed members to explore a broader selection of songs that bring joy to both singers and audiences. The choir is a cherished part of our community, and the addition of new music has inspired members and added excitement to every performance.

## Gallery 100: Celebrating Creativity Through the Art Matters Fund

Nestled within Silver Maples of Chelsea, Gallery 100 has been a vibrant part of the community since its establishment in 2009. Located at 100 Silver Maples Drive, it stands as the only remaining art gallery in Chelsea, Michigan. Supported by our Art Matters Fund and grants received from local organizations, the gallery brings diverse, high-quality exhibits to residents and the broader community, fostering creativity, connection, and artistic appreciation.

Gallery 100 was the brainchild of Glenn Paulson, a Silver Maples resident and accomplished architect. With a career that included teaching at the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning and serving as President of Cranbrook Academy of Art, Glenn saw untapped potential in an empty hallway at Silver Maples. His vision transformed the space into a professional art gallery, completed in 2009.





While Glenn's vision laid the foundation, Lois DeLeon brought Gallery 100 to life and propelled it forward. Moving to Silver Maples from Cleveland knowing only her brother, Lois found purpose and connection as the gallery's curator. Her first exhibit, featuring photographs by Angie and Jim Georg of Ann Arbor, was a tremendous success. Pieces sold, excitement spread, and Gallery 100 quickly became a cornerstone of artistic life at Silver Maples.

Lois built strong relationships with local artist groups, including the Chelsea Painters, Chelsea Artists Guild, Ann Arbor Fiber Arts Guild, and CAADY Quilters. Her passion for collaboration brought unique and memorable themes to the gallery, such as "Birds, Bugs, and Beasts," which traveled to Frankfort to become a standout exhibit at another gallery. Annual quilt shows became a beloved tradition, while exhibits like "Motorcycle Mamas," which paired vintage motorcycles with life-sized dolls, captivated viewers.

Lois's dedication to diversity ensured that Gallery 100 met the varied interests of the Silver Maples and Chelsea communities. "Everyone has different likes and preferences," she said, "and I wanted to ensure the gallery met the diverse needs of our community."

After years of curating exceptional exhibits, Lois is now working closely with Winn Nichols, Director of Life Enrichment at Silver Maples, to ensure Gallery 100's continued success. Together, they are planning for the gallery's future, preserving its mission while opening doors to new opportunities. With support from Silver Maples resident committee members and the Art Matters Fund, Winn will continue to build on Lois's legacy, ensuring Gallery 100 remains a space where creativity thrives and inspires.





## A New Fence Adds Comfort and Privacy to Silver Maples Villas

This year, the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund supported the addition of a fence to a portion of property behind the Silver Maples Woodland Villas. After trees were removed from the area by city workers, multiple residents were left exposed to the Community Wellness Path and Chelsea High School's athletic fields. Access to Development funding for this unplanned tree predicament allowed Silver Maples to take care of impacted residents sooner than would have been possible without donor support.

Sharing the cost with Chelsea Public Schools, Silver Maples Development granted **\$4,935** from the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund in 2024 to help restore our residents' privacy in a timely manner. This addition has returned a sense of comfort and seclusion to residents and strengthened the sense of care and connection that defines Silver Maples.

## Kaleidoscope Concerts – Spreading the Joy of Music

Life-enriching activities and programs are at the heart of what makes Silver Maples such a unique community. Our Life Enrichment team curates an incredible variety of musical experiences each year through the Kaleidoscope Concert Series, providing free, accessible concerts to residents and seniors in the greater Washtenaw County area.

A key feature of Kaleidoscope Concerts is the free transportation Silver Maples offers to and from performances. We regularly pick up seniors from The Pines, Chelsea Retirement Community, and other Chelsea locations, ensuring that these concerts are accessible to all. Many attendees are so moved by these experiences that they give back to Silver Maples in gratitude.

Since the beginning of 2024, we've welcomed a diverse array of performers, including the Paul Keller Quintet, Picks & Sticks, the MacDonald Brothers, and the River Raisin Ragtime Revue. With packed audiences of 130 attendees, the concerts have become a cherished part of our community, with many calling for us to "keep it coming." Thanks to **\$11,679** in donated funds since October 2023, these concerts have brought joy and connection to countless seniors.

On August 27th, we took the celebration to new heights with a special Kaleidoscope Concert fundraiser featuring the renowned vocal group THREE MEN and a TENOR. Their lively, humor-filled performance captivated the audience and brought residents, families, and community members together for an unforgettable evening. The event raised nearly \$17,000 for the Kaleidoscope Concert Fund, ensuring the continuation of these beloved performances.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who supports the Kaleidoscope Concert Series, whether through attendance, donations, or volunteer efforts. Your generosity keeps live music thriving at Silver Maples, fostering joy, connection, and a vibrant sense of community.



## Donor-Funded Piano Brings Harmony to Silver Maples

Earlier this year, Silver Maples was thrilled to welcome a beautiful new Yamaha Clavinova CLP 745 digital piano and piano bench to the Meadows Great Room. This effort was thought of, informed, and made possible by a Silver Maples resident who generously donated to the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund to purchase the instrument. The total project cost was **\$4,799**.

This meaningful gift has enriched our community by bringing the joy of quality music to activities, performances, and church services in the Meadows. We are deeply grateful to the donor and those who helped select the piano for their thoughtful contributions. Their generosity has added a rich layer of enjoyment to life at Silver Maples, giving us the gift of music that brightens our days and enhances the spirit of togetherness at our events and services. This gift is a testament to the lasting impact that one's support has had on our entire community, bringing harmony to Silver Maples for years to come.





## Silver Lining: Supporting Care When It's Needed Most

The Silver Lining Fund was conceived by our residents for their neighbors at Silver Maples who have outlived their assets. Regardless of where we are in our lives, we cannot know the future. With increased life expectancies, rising costs of medical care, an uncertain stock market and shrinking government reimbursements, the likelihood of exhausting one's savings is a real possibility. The goal of the Silver Lining fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified residents who outlive his or her financial assets, helping to ensure they always have a home at Silver Maples. The peace of mind provided by the Silver Lining Fund is the heart of Silver Maples's mission, and to date, the Silver Lining Fund has provided a total of **\$33,723** in charitable care.

## Development Support Brings New Life to Silver Maples' Memorial Garden

Spring in Michigan is a season of renewal, and at Silver Maples, it's a time to embrace the outdoors as gardens bloom with energy and life. This year was particularly vibrant for the Memorial Garden Committee, which worked diligently to prepare the space for residents to enjoy.

In early 2024, the committee dedicated time to researching plants, designing garden layouts, and planning for both short- and long-term improvements in the Memorial Garden. Their efforts focused on selecting plants that would thrive in specific areas, choosing shrubbery that would blend beauty with practicality, and carefully considering options that could withstand visits from the ever-present deer population.

For those who don't mind "getting their hands dirty," the committee offers a great opportunity to dig in—though active gardening is not a





requirement for membership. The group meets the first Tuesday of every month to discuss plans, and every Thursday morning (season and weather permitting) to tend to the garden. Residents, along with a helpful Silver Maples employee, can often be found planting, pruning, weeding, and nurturing this beloved space.

The Operations Department provides essential support with spring and fall cleanups, but it's the contributions from the Landscaping & Memorial Garden Fund that make the Memorial Garden truly shine. This year, **\$3,298** was allocated from the fund to enhance the gardens and grounds, ensuring the Memorial Garden continues to be a peaceful place for rest, reflection, and joy.

While April showers may bring May flowers, it's the philanthropic spirit of generous donors that makes the Memorial Garden flourish. Thanks to their support—and the dedication of the Memorial Garden Committee—Silver Maples residents and visitors can enjoy a beautiful sanctuary that embodies the spirit of spring.



## A New Chapter for the Silver Maples Library: Enhancing Spaces for Enrichment and Community

The library at Silver Maples is a cherished space where residents gather to explore ideas, engage in lively conversations, and connect with one another. Thoughtfully curated and managed by formally trained librarians and dedicated resident committee members who volunteer their time, the library is almost always buzzing with activity.

The Library Committee works tirelessly to ensure this space is stimulating, welcoming, and accessible to all. Visitors to the Silver Maples Library will find thoughtfully selected monthly themes, book recommendations, and celebrations, along with scheduled book discussions and resources designed to meet residents' diverse interests and needs. Tools to enhance vision, computers, puzzles, and a meticulously organized catalog further enrich the library's offerings.

Silver Maples is committed to keeping the library fresh and inviting with new book purchases, regular maintenance, and a Silver Maples funded renovation project in 2025. However, donations play a crucial role in enhancing the library beyond these foundational updates, allowing it to adapt to residents' new interests and needs with additional resources and programs. Over the past year, **\$605** in development funding has contributed to these valuable enhancements. Looking ahead, support from the Library Plus Fund could further amplify the impact of the 2025 renovation, introducing new features and expanded offerings that make the library even more vibrant and engaging.





## EMPLOYEE IMPACT

In the pages that follow, we share examples of the extent to which employees are supported and cared for through Silver Maples Development Funds.



## Employee Hardship Support: Caring for Those Who Care for Us

At the beginning of 2024, Silver Maples established the Employee Hardship Fund with \$7,500 in board-designated funds to provide anonymous essential financial assistance to our hourly employees facing unexpected emergencies, such as housing issues, transportation repairs, or family crises. Hardship grants of up to \$750 are available to help alleviate immediate financial stress, providing a supportive safety net for our dedicated team members during challenging times.

Through September 2024, the fund has already provided **\$3,349** in hardship support to assist six employees, allowing them to navigate unforeseen challenges with greater ease and focus on their well-being and continued service to our residents.

The Employee Hardship Fund reflects our commitment to supporting staff who make Silver Maples such a special place to live and work. Sustained through contributions from residents, families, and community members, the fund strengthens the spirit of community care within Silver Maples.



## Introducing the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Program

Silver Maples of Chelsea is proud to share the launch of the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Program, a heartfelt initiative made possible by extraordinary generosity. This program began in 2024 with an anonymous seed gift of \$60,000 and has since inspired two additional \$25,000 contributions: one from Irene and Edward Naegeli, and another from Fran and John Parker, Silver Maples residents who were moved by the program's mission and its potential to make a meaningful difference.

For many working families, the cost of childcare creates an overwhelming challenge—often exceeding what parents earn and making it financially impossible for them to work. The Educated Generations program was created to lift this burden by providing meaningful assistance for licensed childcare, including before and after school care and summer day camps. It offers up to one-third of childcare costs for up to two children per employee, with support prorated to match the number of hours each employee works at Silver Maples.

Because Silver Maples could cover up to one-third of employees' childcare costs, we were one of the first organizations in Michigan to participate in the MI Tri-Share Child Care Program. This visionary initiative divides childcare costs equally among the employer, the employee, and the State of Michigan. By becoming an early adopter of MI Tri-Share, Silver Maples is helping to pave the way for a new standard of care and support for working parents.

The impact of these efforts is already evident. Five children are currently benefiting from the Educated Generations program, with at least two more expected to join soon. To date, **\$2,049** has been distributed in support, and monthly distributions are projected to exceed \$1,500 in 2025. These numbers reflect not just financial assistance but also a commitment to creating opportunities and stability for employees and their families.

By addressing the high cost of childcare, Silver Maples is removing a

major barrier that often prevents parents from pursuing meaningful work. This program is not only a lifeline for families but also a key factor in strengthening Silver Maples' ability to attract and retain talented team members who are the backbone of our vibrant community.

The Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Program is a testament to what can be achieved when compassion meets action. Thanks to the generosity of the anonymous donor and the thoughtful contributions from Irene and Edward Naegeli and Fran and John Parker, Silver Maples is making a lasting impact on the lives of its employees and their families.

We are honored to lead the way with this unique program and look forward to its continued success. Together, we are building a community that supports every generation, creating an environment where families can thrive, and opportunities grow.

*'The Childcare Assistance program that Silver Maples of Chelsea offers has been life changing. My husband and I have two kids. When I was considering applying for my job at Silver Maples and heard about this program, I couldn't believe the generosity of Silver Maples residents and donors. To have this benefit offered to employees made this job financially possible for me to pursue. It has given me the ability to accept a part time job and still get to spend time with my 3-year-old daughter at home when she is not in childcare. Without the generosity of our community donors, I would be making a choice between working full time, knowing that a majority of the money I earned was going solely toward childcare expenses or being a stay at home Mom, which honestly financially would not really be an option for us. I feel very fortunate to work somewhere that is invested in the community and their employees!'*

**-Gemma Petty**

Sales Assistant at Silver Maples



# DONOR IMPACT

## Fran Parker: A Life of Thoughtful Connection & Giving

Fran Parker, who passed away this year, was a truly remarkable presence at Silver Maples—a woman full of life, deeply thoughtful, and profoundly caring. She lived with passion and conviction, unafraid to stand up for the things she believed in. Fran shared an extraordinary bond with her husband, John—a partnership built on love, mutual respect, and shared values. Their deep connection was evident in everything they did, a love so profound and genuine that others could feel it, too. Together, they radiated kindness, generosity, and a heartfelt commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Family was at the heart of Fran's world. She cherished her loved ones and delighted in sharing updates about their lives. She especially adored her children and grandchildren, always eager to keep up with their busy and full lives, celebrating every milestone and achievement with pride and joy.

Fran had a gift for connection, often engaging in deep, thoughtful conversations that left you feeling more alive, more reflective, and more connected to the world around you. Talking with her wasn't just a moment—it was an experience, one that stayed with you and made you see life in a new light.

One of Fran's final acts of giving was a \$25,000 gift to the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Program, a decision she and John made with quiet certainty and a big heart. For Fran, helping working families was not just a good idea—it was essential. She saw the challenges young parents face and believed in creating a community where everyone, especially our employees and their children, could thrive. Supporting this program was her way of ensuring that care, compassion, and opportunity would ripple through generations.

Fran's generosity is a lasting reflection of her incredible spirit—vivacious, determined, and deeply invested in the well-being of others. Her legacy shines brightly at Silver Maples in the lives she touched and the difference she made. Though she is no longer with us, Fran's impact is felt every day, a beautiful reminder of the love and passion she shared so freely.





# DONOR IMPACT

## Irene and Edward Naegeli: A Tribute to Their Compassion and Support for Silver Maples Families

In a selfless act of generosity, former residents Irene and Edward Naegeli left a legacy of love and care that will touch the lives of the Silver Maples community for years to come. Deeply understanding the challenges faced by families trying to balance work and the rising costs of childcare, the Naegelis chose to support Silver Maples employees in one of the most meaningful ways possible—by helping to care for their children.

In 2024, the Naegelis made a planned gift of \$25,000 to the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Fund in recognition of the exceptional quality of care that was provided and continues to be provided by staff at Silver Maples. This remarkable gesture provides employees with the peace of mind that their children are safe, nurtured, and supported, allowing them to focus on their work and build brighter futures for their families.

The Naegelis' decision speaks to the depth of their compassion and their unwavering belief in the strength of community. Through their gift, they not only addressed a fundamental need but also gave employees the gift of opportunity—the chance to grow, thrive, and care for their families without fear or uncertainty.

This act of kindness is a beautiful reflection of the Naegelis' values, their generosity, and their commitment to others. Their legacy reminds us that acts of thoughtfulness, when paired with a deep desire to make a difference, can change lives.

## Keeping Silver Maples Safe and Supported Through Winter Storms

The Greater Good (Unrestricted) Fund is a vital resource that allows Silver Maples leadership to address unexpected challenges quickly. In 2024, Michigan's harsh winter weather created a commuting crisis for staff, with snow and ice making travel dangerous and threatening to leave our community short-staffed.

Acting swiftly, Silver Maples' President and CEO partnered with the Comfort Inn Hotel in Chelsea to secure rooms for essential employees. Supported by **\$698.61** from the Greater Good Fund, this proactive decision ensured staff had a safe place to stay and could return to work safely the next day. Several employees stayed at the hotel, even providing transportation for colleagues, exemplifying the dedication and teamwork that define our community.





## Care for Caregiver & Grief Support Presentation

Silver Maples recently hosted a valuable grief support presentation titled Care for Caregivers. Supported by a **\$400** distribution from the Greater Good Unrestricted Fund, this program was specially designed to support both employees and residents, offering tools, guidance, and a compassionate space to share experiences.

The presentation provided meaningful insights into managing the emotional demands of caregiving and processing loss, topics that resonate deeply within our community. Those who attended the presentation left feeling supported and better equipped with resources to help navigate some of the most challenging aspects of life and work. Silver Maples is a wonderful example of how a community can facilitate a network of compassion through philanthropy.

## The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship Fund

The Silver Maples Employee Scholarship Program was first established in 2010, when members of the Resident Council began discussing the idea of raising funds for and awarding scholarships to Silver Maples employees. The following year a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Ms. Lauren Gray. And so, it began!

Some years later, the Silver Maples Resident Council assigned the official title of "Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship" to the fund, and its awards have increased to as high as \$3,000 per student. Additional scholarships have been established over time, and in the past 6 years **\$212,291** has been awarded to Silver Maples employees to help further their education.

This year, 16 scholarships were awarded to employees totaling **\$42,641!**

### Did you know?

Scholarship recipients at Silver Maples are proudly identified by a special badge on their name tag. This badge signifies that they have benefited from the generous support of the Silver Maples Scholarship Program.

The badge is a symbol of the incredible connection between our residents and the students whose lives are enriched by this program. Be sure to look for it and know that your contributions are making a lasting impact on their education and future success.

# EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SILVER MAPLES EMPLOYEES

**Esma Cronin & Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**  
Multiple awards of up to \$3,000 in 2024

**Dr. Bruce & June Johnson Scholarship**  
\$1,000 award - open to all SM employees

**MacGregor RCA Scholarship**  
\$1,500 award for SM Resident Care Associates

**Will Johnson Scholarship**  
\$1,000 award for a child or grandchild of SM employees

## SCHOLARSHIPS MANAGED BY THE AAACF FOR THE BENEFIT OF SILVER MAPLES EMPLOYEES:

**The Joe Jacobs Employee Scholarship Education Fund**  
Open to all SM employees

**The Silver Legacy Scholarship Fund**  
For SM Culinary employees



## 2024 Silver Maples Employee Scholars



### Millie Robinson

Millie was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship** and **\$3,000** from **The Joe Jacobs Employee Education Fund** through the AAACF.

**Position:** Resident Care Associate (RCA)

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4 Years

**School:** Michigan State University

**Area of Study:** Millie is well on her way to a degree in Human Biology with plans of attending Dental School after graduation. She has goals to positively impact human health by developing new treatments and technologies and enjoys participating in the university's Human Biology Club. Starting out at Silver Maples in the Culinary Service department, Millie transitioned into caregiving to better align with her goals and to spend more quality time with residents. Although she is missed in the Silver Maples dining rooms, Millie's kind presence across the rest of our community makes it clear that becoming an RCA was a fitting next step.



## Matthew Gietzen

Matthew was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4 Years

**School:** Michigan State University

**Area of Study:** Matthew is in his first semester of college and taking general education classes while he decides his path. He hopes to make a difference in others' lives and is considering becoming a teacher so that he can bring happiness and fun to the classroom. If you see Matthew in the dining room at Silver Maples, it is easy to recognize the kindness and patience he possesses as smiles appear on people's faces after a moment's interaction.



## Marina Hinz-Johnson

Marina was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 2.5 Years

**School:** Western Michigan University

**Area of Study:** Marina is committed to becoming a guiding force for students navigating the complexities of learning by focusing her career on special education. Inspired by teachers who model inclusivity and promote the pursuit of help without reservation, Marina entered her first year of college with a vision and goals. At Silver Maples, Marina recognizes the difference that going the extra mile makes for residents and her colleagues, and her day-to-day attitude accentuates her natural spirit of service.



## Gabe Landis

Gabe was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Dishwasher & Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 2.5 Years

**School:** University of Michigan - Flint

**Area of Study:** Hoping to help preserve animals and the environment, Gabe is interested in degrees that allow him to gain experience and network with others who have similar goals. He is currently taking general education credits during his first year of college so that he can choose a degree wisely and efficiently work toward his goals. As a Silver Maples employee, Gabe always gives his best effort and makes a point to be helpful and dependable, skills that will serve him well throughout his education and beyond.



## Riley Maciejewski

Riley was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 3 Years

**School:** Western Michigan University

**Area of Study:** Riley has chosen to pursue a career in Business Marketing because she wants to share information and ideas in creative, fun ways. She is attending her second year at WMU where she appreciates getting to know new people with different life experiences and perspectives. At Silver Maples, Riley was promoted and became a Wait Staff Team Lead last year because of her initiative and service-oriented personality.



## Alissa Cross

Alissa was awarded **\$3,000** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4 Years

**School:** Kellogg Community College

**Area of Study:** Alissa is working to become a Graphic Designer so that she can incorporate her love for art into her career. She has been such an asset at Silver Maples, recently taking on the Team Lead and Weekend Supervisor positions without missing a beat. Her resilience, consistency, and good nature all make her a joy to be around for both residents and coworkers at Silver Maples.



## Brianna Cross

Brianna was awarded **\$3,000** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4.5 Years

**School:** Kellogg Community College

**Area of Study:** On track to becoming a Dental Hygienist, Brianna's dedication and hard work have transferred well from Silver Maples to her studies. Just like her twin sister (Alissa) Brianna was promoted to the Team Lead and Weekend Supervisor positions. Her time with residents taught her to become more independent, manage time efficiently, and develop meaningful relationships with others.



## Claire Zarinnia

Claire was awarded **\$2,500** from **The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship**.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 3 Years

**School:** Miami University - Oxford

**Area of Study:** Claire started her first year at the Farmer School of Business this fall and has hit the ground running. She is involved in many activities in addition to full-time classes and appreciated the work ethic she learned by serving Silver Maples residents at night after high school. Newly promoted to lead and train other waitstaff, Claire is sincere and works hard to get every detail right so that residents feel taken care of.



## Sara Smith

Sara was awarded **\$1,135** from **The Nancy MacGregor Resident Care Associate Scholarship**.

**Position:** Resident Care Associate (RCA) Supervisor

**Time at Silver Maples:** 10 Years

**School:** Premier Medical Academy

**Area of Study:** Sara is very grateful to the MacGregors for their support and scholarship that allowed her to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. She appreciates the additional knowledge that has allowed her to better care for Silver Maples residents and train fellow staff members. As last year's co-employee of the year, Sara is a proven leader who unites people, can always be relied upon, and takes excellent care of those around her.



## Destiny Kidd

Destiny was awarded **\$1,000** from the **Dr. Bruce & June Johnson Scholarship**.

**Position:** Resident Care Associate (RCA)

**Time at Silver Maples:** 1.5 years

**School:** Jackson Career Center

**Area of Study:** Thanks to her scholarship, Destiny is now a Certified Nursing Assistant. Her training has allowed her to grow at Silver Maples where she loves getting to know residents and what little things make a difference to them. Destiny is compassionate, giving, and driven – always doing her best for her kids and Silver Maples family.



## Evan Kucera

Evan was awarded **\$1,000** from **The Will Johnson Scholarship Fund**.

**Parent Working at Silver Maples:** Patti Kucera, who has been the Director of Culinary Services for over 5 years.

**School:** City Colleges of Chicago

**Area of Study:** Evan's goal is to earn his EMT license this fall to familiarize himself with emergency medicine before heading to nursing school. A full-time employee at Trader Joes where customer service is top-priority, Evan has an infectiously fun personality, just like his mom! As one of his recommendation letters said, "Evan is a mirror image of his mother, who is one of the hardest working people I know...he will represent the Will Johnson Scholarship well and use it to achieve his goals."



## Maddie Quinn

Maddie was awarded **\$3,500** from **The Silver Legacy Scholarship** through the AAACF.

**Position:** Resident Care Associate (RCA)

**Time at Silver Maples:** 6 Years

**School:** Washtenaw Community College

**Area of Study:** A former treasured Culinary Services employee at Silver Maples, Maddie began working as an RCA after graduating high school and started working towards her nursing degree. A multi-year scholarship recipient and winner of the Leading Age Michigan Emerging Leader Award in 2022, Maddie is a natural caretaker and will make an excellent nurse. Residents and staff alike appreciate her attentiveness, skills, and devotion to helping others.



## Caroline Knight

Caroline was awarded **\$3,500** from **The Silver Legacy Scholarship** through the AAACF.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4 Years

**School:** University of Notre Dame

**Area of Study:** Embarking on the journey towards college, Caroline's preparations have been very purpose driven with her sights set on medical school. She has readied herself by taking difficult classes in high school, holding several leadership positions, and gaining valuable volunteer experience in addition to her work at Silver Maples. While spending time with residents, Caroline has learned that being service-oriented is all about making life more pleasant and easier for others, something that will be much appreciated by her future patients.



## Kate Krugh

Kate was awarded **\$3,500** from **The Silver Legacy Scholarship** through the AAACF.

**Position:** Culinary Wait Staff

**Time at Silver Maples:** 4 Years

**School:** Carleton College

**Area of Study:** Kate started her first semester of college this fall with plans of becoming a licensed family therapist before returning to academia as a professor. At Silver Maples she approaches every task with a kind heart, confidence, maturity, and grace. At Carleton College, Kate looks forward to expanding her world awareness, improving her critical thinking and writing skills, cultivating her interests, and accessing the skills (and degrees) that will allow her to make meaningful changes in the world.



## Bailey Krueger

Bailey was awarded **\$3,000** from **The Joe Jacobs Employee Education Fund** through the AAACF.

**Silver Maples Position:** Resident Care Associate (RCA)

**Time at Silver Maples:** 1.5 Years - She was our first SWWC Healthcare Consortium intern!

**School:** Washtenaw Community College

**Area of Study:** Bailey has been a consistently reliable and excellent Resident Care Associate at Silver Maples since she was in high school. Bailey is working and going to school full-time to become a nurse, using her experiences at Silver Maples to guide her studies and hone her skills. She is recognized by many as an awesome team member who naturally connects with residents, families, and coworkers alike. Silver Maples is a more caring place to be because Bailey works here.

## Celebrating Education and Community: The 2024 Scholarship Reception

Silver Maples of Chelsea was delighted to host the 2024 Annual Scholarship Reception, a heartfelt celebration of our scholarship recipients and their families. This event brought together students, their loved ones, and the generous donors who make these scholarships possible.

The reception honored the achievements of these hardworking students while expressing gratitude to the donors whose support fosters education and strengthens the bonds within our community. It was an inspiring evening, highlighting the impact of the scholarship program on lives and the meaningful connections it creates.

As part of the celebration, we were privileged to hear from one of our past scholarship recipients, Alexa Schumann. Her heartfelt words beautifully captured the lasting impact of the program and the opportunities it has opened for her future. Here is her reflection:

*Four years ago, I was preparing to graduate high school and start college. But like so many others, my senior year took an unexpected turn when the world shut down due to the pandemic. Despite the challenges, I began my college journey at the University of Toledo, pursuing a degree in political science. However, navigating the unique difficulties of learning during the pandemic, I decided to return home after one semester.*

*I continued my education at Washtenaw Community College, focusing on general education courses while figuring out my next steps. With no political science program at WCC, I set my sights on transferring to a university. My dream was Michigan State University because of its proximity to the Capitol and Michigan politics, but, on a whim, I also applied to the University of Michigan. In high school, my academic advisor never sent my transcript to U of M, so they didn't even review my application back then. This time, however, things were different.*

In the spring of 2022, I received an acceptance letter to U of M's Political Science program. For a lifelong Wolverines fan—there are childhood photos of me in U of M gear—this was an opportunity I couldn't turn down. On May 4th of this year, I graduated with my bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. The night before my graduation ceremony, I accepted a position working for a member of the Michigan state legislature.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the residents, their families, and the Resident Scholarship Committee at Silver Maples. The scholarships I received during my time here covered my 1.5 years at WCC, including summer courses, in full. The generosity of the residents put a dent in my debt from UofM as well.

Your kindness and investment in my future provided not just financial support, but also a sense of stability and encouragement during uncertain times. My education—and where I am in life today—would look very different without the contributions made by the residents of Silver Maples, their families, and the Resident Scholarship Committee. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you to the residents, families, and the Resident Scholarship Committee for their generosity and belief in students like me. Your support has made all the difference, and I am forever grateful.



-Alexa Schumann

Former Silver Maples Employee



## A Legacy of Strength and Service: Remembering Esma Cronin, the Founder of Our Scholarship Program

At Silver Maples of Chelsea, we remember one remarkable woman who, through small but mighty efforts, created a lasting impact on our community. With a commitment to making progress and fostering a spirit of service, Esma Cronin initiated a program that not only supports students financially but also builds connections between generations.

A former teacher who valued continued education, Esma was driven by her can-do attitude and strength of character. She launched the Silver Maples scholarship program with funds raised through bake sales and other grassroots activities, using her consistent presence at the Maples morning coffee hour to share her vision. Though successful, her fundraising wasn't just about raising money; it was about building a community around a shared purpose. These efforts laid the foundation for a program that has since grown to be recognized and appreciated by the greater Chelsea community, helping Silver Maples attract the best team members from our local high school.

The Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley Resident Council Scholarship is awarded to multiple Silver Maples employees each year, providing them with invaluable experience alongside the financial assistance they need. Through this program, students gain meaningful insights into the lives and stories of Silver Maples residents, while residents benefit from the warmth and energy the students bring.

Since the program's inception, dozens of scholarship recipients have worked here, forming bonds with our residents that last well beyond their time with us. These relationships reflect Esma's vision of a community where everyone, young and old, can learn and grow together. Her legacy endures in the students who receive our scholarships and the relationships they form with our residents. Silver Maples honors her memory and the simple yet powerful acts that continue to shape lives across generations.

## Fueling Gratitude: How the Employee Recognition Fund Keeps Silver Maples Smiling

The Silver Maples Employee Recognition Fund was created to show appreciation for the incredible staff who bring care, dedication, and heart to our community every day. This fund allows us to celebrate and support employees in meaningful ways that enhance their experience and well-being.

From appreciation gifts, team t-shirts, and celebratory parties to coffee stations and anniversary gifts that keep spirits high, the fund makes a difference in the daily lives of our team. It also supports larger initiatives, such as wellness training for the entire staff, providing tools and resources that empower employees to thrive both professionally and personally.

Over the past year, the fund provided **\$6,555** to support these efforts, ensuring that employees felt valued, recognized, and cared for. This investment reflects Silver Maples' commitment to creating a workplace that inspires positivity, connection, and growth.

By fostering a positive and supportive work environment, the fund reflects Silver Maples' commitment to valuing its employees. It's about more than appreciation—it's about ensuring our staff feel seen, supported, and celebrated for the vital role they play in making Silver Maples such a special community.





Joe Zikmund



Betty Hopkins

# Volunteer of the Year

## Award Recipients

## CAMPUS IMPACT

The impact Silver Maples residents have on our community is impressive. Organizations depend on the generous volunteerism of community members to run smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered time and talent to our committees listed in the coming pages, without which we would not be the community that we know and love today.

## Silver Maples Resident Council

Resident Council is a forum for residents to provide recommendations and ideas for projects for the mutual benefit of Silver Maples Residents and Administration. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the monthly Resident Council meetings which meet on the 3rd Monday of each month. Council meetings are a great place to hear about the work being done on each Committee by its chosen representative. Resident Council is responsible for many events that raise money for the Employee Scholarship Fund, including the annual rummage sale and bake sale. The council also organizes the much-appreciated collection of gratuity gifts given to Silver Maples hourly staff in December of each year.

## Silver Maples Resident Committees:

### 3Rs Committee

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This committee is invested in helping Silver Maples become a more sustainable and environmentally conscious organization through recycling and education.

### Activities Committee

Plans events, outings, and programs to meet the social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, creative, and vocational needs of residents.

### Art Committee

Seeks to enhance the beauty and spirit of Silver Maples by selecting, mounting, and replacing works of art throughout our community.

### Development Committee

An advisory committee that works with the Silver Maples Director of Development to discuss, promote, fundraise for, and celebrate projects that enhance life at Silver Maples.

## Food Committee

Serves as a conduit for constructive suggestions from residents to assist the Culinary Service Staff in providing the best dining experience possible.

## Happy Hour Committee

Helps to plan and host resident-coordinated events.

## Hospitality Committee

Welcomes and serves as primary contacts for new residents, ensuring they know about programming opportunities. This Committee also assists Marketing with open house and VIP Waitlist events.

## Library Committee

Seeks to provide an inviting space which offers both print and electronic resources.

## Maintenance Committee

Provides an avenue for the flow of information between residents and staff relative to grounds, building maintenance, and housekeeping.

## Memorial Garden Committee

Gives maximum resident support to Silver Maples maintenance and development of the Memorial Garden.

## Spiritual Enrichment Committee

Works with the Chaplain to plan and implement gatherings and activities that add to the depth and meaning in the life of the individual and surrounding community.

## Scholarship Committee

Reviews scholarship applications and determines awards to employees annually.

## TRIBUTE GIFTS & GARDEN PAVERS

Each year we receive gifts in honor or memory of another. Below are all those who were named in tributes in the last year.

*\* indicates that a memorial paver has been placed in the Memorial Garden*

Margaret (Peggy) Hanson\*

Julie & Dennis Deppner\*

Constance (Connie) Smythe

Frances (Fran) Parker

Esma Cronin\*

Mort Dunlp\*

Larry Ledebur

Jack Crump\*

Pam Ross

The Wonderful Staff at Silver Maples



## HONOR ROLL OF GENEROSITY

It gives us great pleasure to recognize those who together contributed **\$274,161** to Silver Maples of Chelsea between October 1st, 2023, and September 30th, 2024.

Jim & Janet Alford	Dennis & Julie Deppner	Carolyn Ingersoll
Joan Alford	Prudy Dittmar	Gary Jacobs
Anonymous Donors	Rita Dunlop	Jeans Day at Silver Maples
Toby Arons	Karen Esser	Barry E. Johnson
Ruth Barnard	Esther Fabes	Willard Johnson
Beverly & Gordon Flynn	Norman & Margaret Farwell	Luise Kienzle
Betty Bock	Fishman Wright Family Foundation	Christina & Steven Kim
Jerilea Bordt	Rick & Janie Gerteisen	Sun-Kee & Sandra Kim
Kristine & Phil Bradley	Virginia Gillette	Kathleen Klinge
Howard & Pat Brooks	Nick & Percy Golna	Patti & Daniel Kucera
Harriet Brouwer	Esther M. Goudsmit	Carol Kvarnberg
Thomas & Colleen Carey	Deri Glenn-Gray & David Gray	Tim Lamb
Chelsea Area Garden Club	Phyllis Green	Natalie Lamm
Stephanie Collins	Walt & Peggy Hamilton	Andrew Laporte
Bobbi Coluni	Margaret Hanson	Chi Li & Sherry Chiang
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	Craig & Nancy Hatfield	John & Lynch
Mary Cronin & John Johnson	Paul & Ruth Hays	Shelley MacMillan & Gary Decker
Beverly Crump	Edie Herrold	Scott Mahoney
Susan Cunningham	Janis Horning	Paul & Barb Marshall
Carole DeMarco	Dan Hunter	Jim & Ann Mattson
		Roseanne McElroy

Marjorie Mead	Plantefaber-Maher	Geraldine & Wayne Swartzendruber
Art Meissner	Jim & Mary Randolph	Sandi Szufnar
Delphine M. Miller	Susan & Pete Rantz	Barb Terwilliger
Jane Miller	Carole Van Reesema	Don & Jean Thiel
Sandra Miller	JoAnne & Michael Reynolds	Robert & Ellen Thompson
Joe & Isla Mitchell	Mark & Mary Royce	Mary Ann Vinton
Mary E Moss	Julia Shea	Amy Wagner
Susan Murray	Young-Ai Shinn	Diane Weid
The Estate of Irene & Edward Naegeli	Silver Maples Resident Council	Lila Westenberg
Winn Nichols	Wyneda Sindlinger	Susan Whitelaw
Judy Osmun	Paul & Julia Smith	Patricia Wilkins
Kitty Padgett	Samantha Snyder	Megan Wojton
John & Frances Parker	Marjorie Stevens	Margaret Wooldridge
John Phelps	Donna Stohl	Barbara & Joseph Zikmund
Elizabeth Pielsticker	Jessica Stubbs	
Liz Pielsticker	Susan Sutton	
Lois & Patty		

*Note: It is our intention to mention every donor who made a gift between the dates mentioned. If we have left out your name or listed your name incorrectly, it was an error and we offer our sincere apology. Please let us know at 734-433-5214 how we should correct the error.*

# FACTS & FIGURES

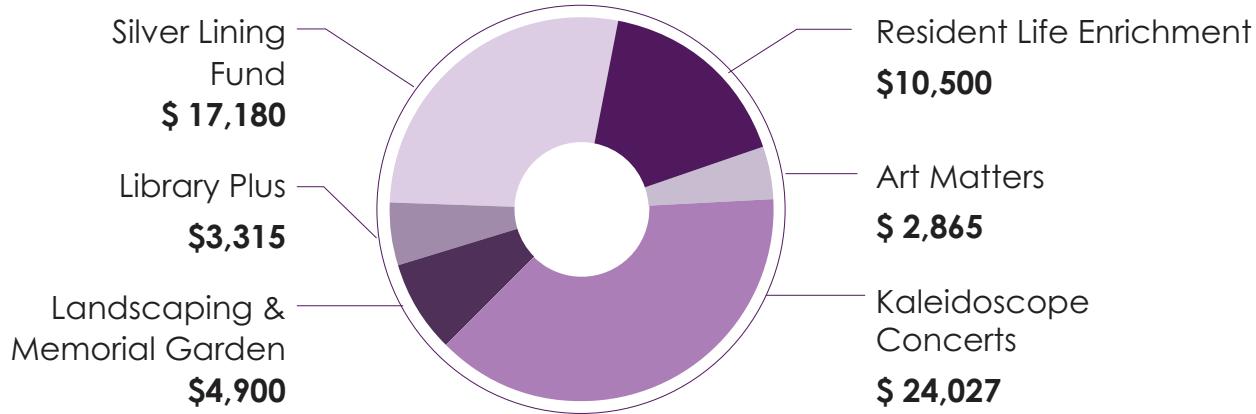
Oct 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024

Total Funds: **\$2,480,997**

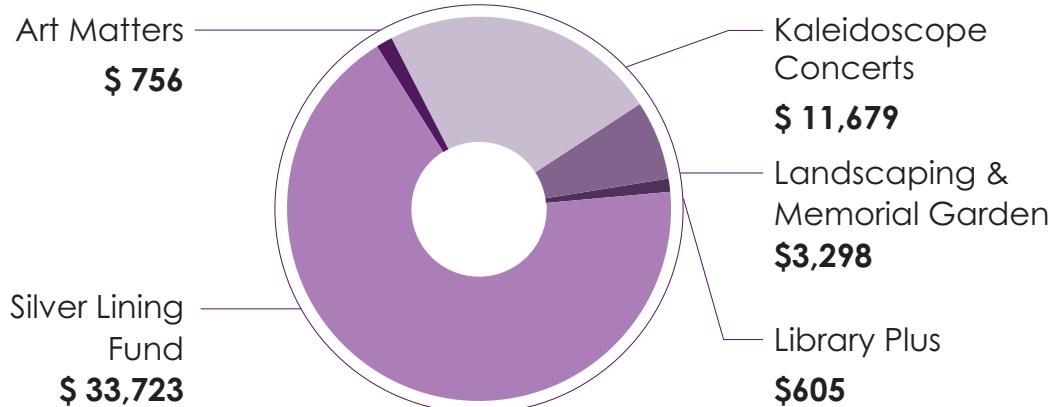
Total Donations: **+ \$274,161** | Total Distributions: **-\$116,260**

## Resident Enrichment Designated Funds

Donated: **+ \$62,787**



Distributed: **-\$50,061**



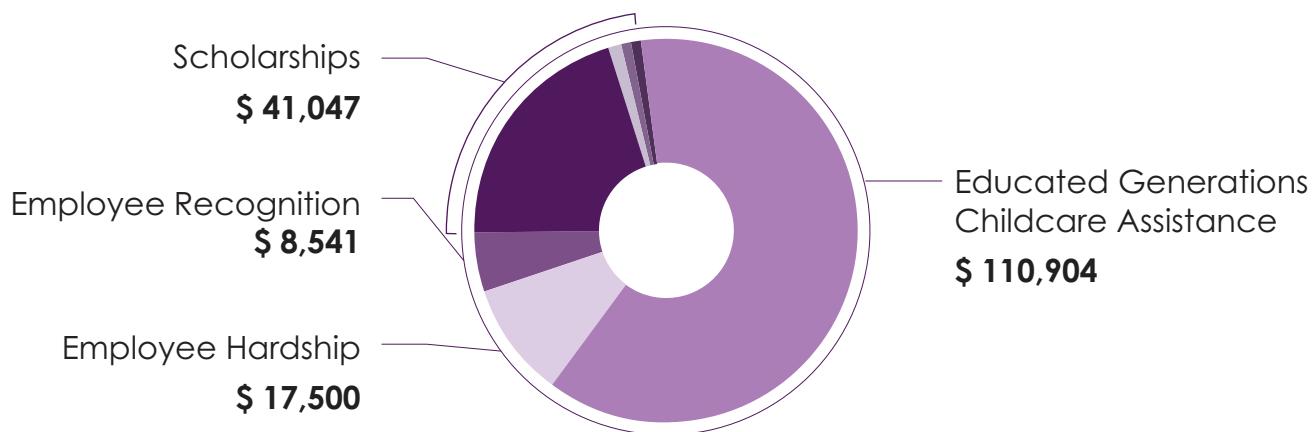
# GREATER GOOD UNRESTRICTED FUND

Donations: **+\$33,382**

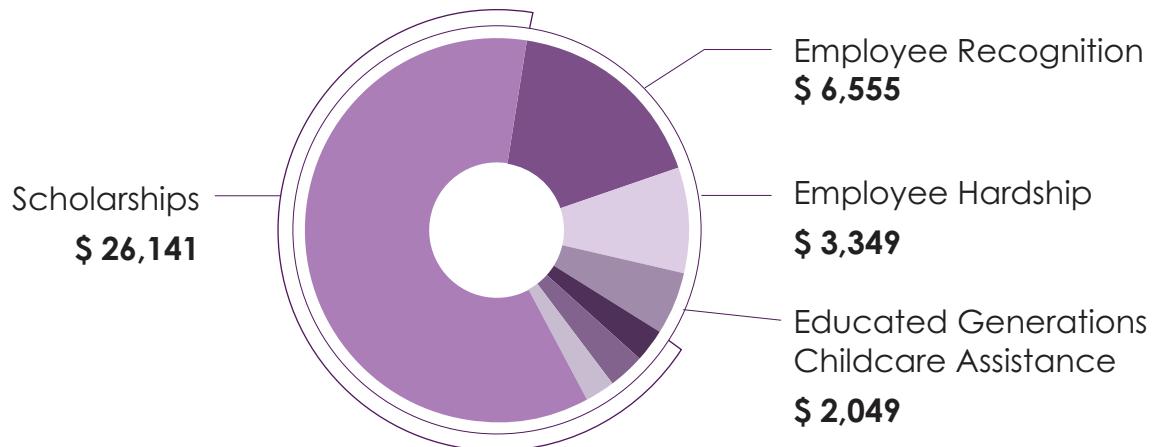
Distributions: **-\$28,105**

## Employee Support Designated Funds

Donated: **+\$177,992**



Distributed: **-\$38,094**





Thank you for reading the second annual  
Silver Maples Development Impact Report!  
All questions, comments, and  
recommendations for improvement are  
welcomed and can be directed to:



**Kristine Bradley**  
Director of Development  
734-433-5214  
[kbradley@silvermaples.org](mailto:kbradley@silvermaples.org)