

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Mackinac Island Community Foundation,

Spring is here and we are all looking forward to a new season on Mackinac Island! It seems like it was an especially long and hard winter – more cold and snow than we've had in a long time. And the tough economic times we are slogging through in Michigan have made this a very bleak winter indeed. So it's even sweeter to think about the smell of warm cedars, the color of spectacular sunsets over the Mackinac Bridge and the sound of waves washing over stones along the beach. Just thinking about Mackinac lifts my spirit!

But visions of Mackinac can't erase the sight of the Dow tumbling. And sounds of horses clip-clopping along the street can't smother the pronouncements of the economic gurus. We are smack dab in the middle of a very bad time and it's affecting all of us, including the Mackinac Island Community Foundation. Every foundation in Michigan has lost money in their endowment and we are no exception. Our endowment is down about 30% which at least beats the NASDAQ. But that is small comfort when we have to cut back on the number of grants we give out, especially at a time when people need help the most.

But the Board of MICF is determined to make sure that the Community Foundation is still able to help provide for the needs of our community. This is the time when we need to rally 'round and pull together. So we are going to be reaching out to our faithful donors and energetically looking for new donors to make sure that our most important programs stay fully funded. We will take all necessary steps to insure that our funds, like the Rainy Day Fund, can provide a helping hand to folks who are caught up in these tough times. We want to make sure that our scholarships can still help our graduating seniors afford college next fall. And we want to continue to help support the Medical Center, the Library, the School, arts and cultural organizations, preservation and environmental efforts and, most importantly, the community of Mackinac Island.

The good news is that when these hard times end, MICF will still be here working for you. We are in it for the long haul. "For Good, For Ever" – that's the motto of our Community Foundation. It means that ten, twenty, one hundred years from now the Mackinac Island Community Foundation will still be here supporting the community. While our endowment is stalled right now, over the long term, it will grow and grow. So the support that your donation provides today will increase over time. Long after you and I are gone, MICF will be here, each new spring, continuing to fulfill our hopes and dreams for this wonderful place.

We have included an envelope with this newsletter. We hope you will fill it with something, no matter how small. The donation you make today will last far into the future and will provide good, forever, for Mackinac Island.

Thank you,

Kathy Lewand and the Board of Trustees