



# Honor Trans Truths

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### Grand Rapids Trans Foundation

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## **OUR MISSION:**

***“To create opportunities for the  
Grand Rapids Trans community.”***

# TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS:

## Strategic Highlights

To us, being dedicated to **Trans equity** means offering **direct financial support for Trans individuals** in need. In a political climate where new hardships for Trans citizens are unfolding daily, it's important to remember that this community also continues to suffer extremely high rates of family rejection, discrimination, assault, violence, depression, suicide, poverty, and homelessness. Our organization believes that by removing some financial barriers to quality education and legal document updates, we can do our small part to help stabilize and support.

This year was obviously a difficult one with the unprecedented emergence of a worldwide pandemic. As such, we were limited in our regular community-building events.

## Highlights of 2020



**Local Representation.** Prior to shutdown, we tabled at some impactful local events, including the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference (MBLGTACC), BAMM GSA Summit, and International Women's Day Expo.

**"Update!" Program.** Entering our second year of this program, we held one virtual workshops for our second cohort. This program offers education, advocacy, and microgrants to assist Trans and Nonbinary local residents with updating their name, gender marker, and documents. In 2020, we were able to assist an additional 14 people through their legal name change process, with the assistance of our partnering attorney Ginny Mikita, JD.

**Trans Week of Visibility.** We unfortunately needed to cancel all our in-person events due to the pandemic, but we did once again partner with Grand Rapids Pride Center and the TGNC Committee to host a Virtual TDoV Open Mic event!

**Academic Scholarships.** This year, we granted a total of \$10,000 in academic scholarships. Please meet our six recipients:



**Tom Kola**

*He/Him pronouns*  
Davenport, Information  
Assurance & Cybersecurity  
**\$2500**

*"I hope that trans people like me who have been marginalized by society and discriminated against by their families are able to share their stories, and advocate for their rights until the world realizes that we are here, we are not unusual, we are loved and we are not going anywhere. Attaining this degree is the first step in accomplishing these goals."*



**Malakhai Hasan**

*They/Them pronouns*  
GVSU, Biochemistry,  
Women, Gender, and  
Sexuality Studies  
**\$2500**

*"Growing up as a queer Muslim in the middle of West Michigan has always been a struggle to say the least. The environment around West Michigan has never been the best when existing as a trans and queer person of color, and there have been plenty of instances of bigotry, harassment, and threats of violence that I have experienced throughout my lifetime in Grand Rapids. I wish to go on after my bachelors and continue into grad school, with an eventual goal of working either as a biochemical researcher or in non-profit."*



**Anonymous Recipient**  
**\$1500**

*No statement provided.*





**Cynthia Kuk**

*They/Them pronouns*  
MSU, College of Human  
Medicine  
**\$1500**

*"My life has been a dichotomy. On the one hand, I am going to be an M.D. My white coat comes with status, power, and respect. On the other hand, I am a queer, non-binary, Chinese immigrant, whose identity comes with a slew of disadvantages.*

*Medicine, for me, has always been about using my newfound power to empower others.*

*My vision for my future is threefold. First, I want to create a safe space for my patients by owning my truth and occupying space. Data shows that patient outcomes improved if they identify with their provider. I plan to overcome my fear and be as visible as possible for my patients' benefit. Second, I want to educate, both in my workplace and in an educational setting. Third, I want to advocate. I am a part of the American Medical Association, and I plan to stay and work with my colleagues to bring about positive changes.*

*My career plan is to be certified in both emergency medicine and internal medicine. Most of our community still access health care through the emergency service. I want to be a friendly presence during this stressful time. Also, I would like to have a small primary care clinic that caters to the trans community. One idea that recently comes to me is to do a "provider meet and greet" at a local pride center. Many queer folks, myself included, experience anxiety in medical settings. Meeting your providers beforehand might help alleviate some of the stress going in. Hopefully, this would help lessen the health disparity faced by the trans community."*



**Jordan Bradley**

*They/Them pronouns*  
GVSU, Philosophy and  
Political Science  
**\$1000**

*"I aim to graduate with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Grand Valley State University and continue studying philosophy in graduate school, with the eventual goal of becoming a professor. I am especially interested in ethics and political theory, and hope to write and speak about LGBTQ issues in the context of those fields. Any contributions I made as an academic would be informed by my experience as a non-binary person."*



**Demetrius Burke**  
They/Them pronouns  
GVSU, Psychology and  
Social Work  
**\$1000**

*"As the youngest of five children of an interstate couple who divorced shortly after my birth, I witness the struggle both my parents experienced as single parents with minimal secondary training and the debt they incurred over the years. With my three older sisters all graduating college before I left elementary school, I have seen the hardships they have experienced. This includes our parents inability to assist in affording their education, still being crushed by their student debt a decade later. Like most children, as I became older I made many efforts to avoid the mistakes my older family members made — all of whom stressed the value of education."*

*While I may not be considered a 'non traditional' student, my education path has taken many alternative routes. One path that has allowed me to pursue my higher education with minimal loans. The most recent alternative route includes this scholarship, and pursuing my bachelors in both psychology and social work. I plan to complete a Masters of Social Work after my graduation. With help of GRTF, I am able to receive the education I need in order to become an advocate for vulnerable populations including our young gender non conforming community in the mental health and substance abuse fields. There are not enough words for me to express my gratitude in this assistance, and hope my efforts in our communities' future can repay the opportunity I have been given with this scholarship."*

**Pride Month 2020 / Trans Icons.** While GR Pride Festival was canceled this year, we celebrated by highlighting a #TransIcon every day of Pride Month on our social media platforms. Representation and visibility is powerful.



Raquel is a Black writer, editor, and transgender rights activist. She is a former national organizer for the Transgender Law Center, and the current executive editor of Out magazine.

### **Raquel Willis**

Raquel was one of the speakers at the 2017 Women's March on Washington, and afterward critiqued the lack of inclusion of Trans women in the planning process. She also is the creator of the Black Trans Flag.



### **Jennicet Gutiérrez**

Jennicet is a Transgender woman who works to advocate for Transgender and immigrant rights, she focuses on undocumented Trans women of color who are being detained due to their immigration status.

She currently serves as the Community Organizer and Advocate at La Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement (TQLM). This is an organization which works to liberate Trans and Queer Latinx people from oppression through community engagement, education, and advocacy.

Rachel is a Transgender Woman who founded the organization Transgender Michigan, providing resources and education to empower Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming communities in Michigan. In 2009, she founded Transgender Day of Visibility, which takes place every March 31st to celebrate Trans people and raise awareness to the discrimination that they face worldwide.

### **Rachel Crandall-Crocker**



Now, Rachel is a licensed therapist who works to help other Trans people through the process of coming out and transitioning, while providing resources for family and allies.

**“Trans Euphoria.”** We’ve decided to push back against tragedy narratives and explore how we find joy in the experience of Transness. Incredible t-shirt run by the locally Trans-owned printshop Transfigure Print Co!



**Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil.** Every November 20, we gather to mourn and honor those Trans lives that were lost to transphobic violence, an epidemic that disproportionately affects Trans women of color. Hosted virtually, in partnership with the Grand Rapids Pride Center.





## BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Police violence against Black communities (including Black Trans persons) in the United States is a historical and incontrovertible fact. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, David McAtee and countless others aren't anomalies. Nor is the mistreatment of Black lives trying to exist in a pervasively white supremacist culture. Enough is enough.

We love our city. And in the same breath, we recognize the painful history--and reality--of anti-Black and anti-Trans administrative and police violence here in Grand Rapids. The protests are a reflection of our community's rage against this normalized violence, lack of accountability, and inadequate action by the city, state, and nation. We expect and demand better.

GR Trans Foundation is committed to helping build a better legacy for Grand Rapids. We stand in solidarity with the protesters and the Black organizers and leaders working to manifest a more just and equitable Grand Rapids. We stand with the Black Lives Matter Movement in demanding freedom, liberation, justice, and equity for the Black community, and we commit to dismantling white supremacy and anti-Blackness in ourselves and in our city. This will be difficult work, but we must not shy away from it. The time for justice is now.

To educate yourself on dismantling racism and white supremacy, while also supporting a local, Black-owned business, purchase books at <https://WeAreLitGR.com/>.

#BlackLivesMatter

#BlackTransLivesMatter

In solidarity,

The Grand Rapids Trans Foundation Board of Directors



## Special Thanks To:

- Ginny Mikita, JD, for her generous pro bono legal assistance with our Update! Program
- Grand Rapids Pride Center for their continued support and partnership
- Transfigure Print Co for printing our amazing “Trans Euphoria” t-shirts
- Our LGBT Fund and Tides Foundation for grants aiding our growth in 2020
- Empathy Tech LLC for an amazing website redesign
- To all the local businesses and groups that supported us and/or held fundraisers for us, including Dog Story Theatre, Kelli Dunham, Vault of Midnight, Seeds of Justice, Transfigure Print Co, Graphic Dyeworks, Nice & Naughty, and West Michigan Gay Men’s Chorus!

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Grand Rapids Trans Foundation is a local, volunteer-run nonprofit with no physical location; as such, there is no payroll or building-related costs represented in the financial statements below. The organization operates on the calendar year, uses a cash-basis system of accounting, and filed a 990-N for 2020 (EIN: 81-0815247).

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position

*As of December 31, 2020*

### ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents (Unrestricted)	\$30,621
Sustainability Fund (Savings)	\$505
Temporarily Restricted Funds	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$31,126</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Assets</b> (Total Assets less Total Liabilities)	<b>\$31,126</b>

## Statement of Activities (Profits & Losses)

*Year Ended December 31, 2020*

### REVENUES

Contributions	\$18,731
Merch Sales	\$3,130
Grants	\$7,500
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$29,361</b>

### SCHOLARSHIPS, MICROGRANTS, AND EXPENSES

Academic Scholarship	\$10,000
Name Change Microgrants	\$2,433
Merch Item Costs	\$2,343
Other Operating Expenses	\$2,363
<b>Total Scholarships, Microgrants, and Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,139</b>
Increase in Net Assets	\$12,222
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$18,904
<b>Net Assets, End of Year**</b>	<b>\$31,126</b>

\*\*Amounts reported in this section must agree with those reported on the Statement of Financial Position.



# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 1 - Nature of Organization

Grand Rapids Trans Foundation (the "Foundation") receives and administers contributions which are used to support programs primarily for the benefit of Trans people in Grand Rapids, Kent County, and Western Michigan area. The Foundation is a Michigan-certified public foundation; as such, contributions to the Foundation enable donors to be eligible for deductions allowed in determining federal income taxes. Grand Rapids Trans Foundation was established and incorporated on December 11, 2015.

## Note 2 - Significant Accounting Items

The following is a summary of significant accounting items:

### **Concentration of Credit Risk**

The Foundation maintains cash balances at one financial institution and the accounts are NCUA-insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) up to \$250,000. As of December 31, 2020, the Foundation had no uninsured deposits.

### **Classification of Net Assets**

The Foundation reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted. Gifts and bequests received by the Foundation are held in various funds which are classified as follows:

- Unrestricted net assets consist of resources that are neither permanently restricted nor temporarily restricted by donor-imposed stipulations.
- Temporarily restricted net assets consist of resources of which the use by the Foundation is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that either expire with the passage of time or can be fulfilled and removed by actions of the Foundation pursuant to those stipulations. When a donor restriction expires or is fulfilled, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets, and reported in the Statement of Activities as "net assets released from restrictions."
- Permanently restricted net assets consist of beneficial interests in perpetual trusts and funds created by donors, of which the Foundation is the owner. The Foundation has an irrevocable right to the original contribution that established these trusts and funds. The Foundation's earnings on permanently restricted net assets are classified as temporarily restricted until appropriated for expenditure based on the terms of the original gift agreement.

**Federal Tax Status**

Grand Rapids Trans Foundation is a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and is also exempt from similar state and local taxes. The Foundation's EIN is 81-0815247.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF (2020)



**Liam Bailey**  
*President*  
*They/Them*



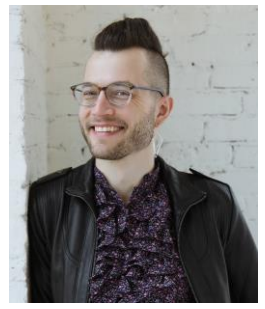
**Theo Randall**  
*Secretary*  
*They/Them*



**Finn Marcks**  
*Treasurer*  
*He/Him, They/Them*



**Esperanza De  
Carlos  
Garay-Negrón**  
*Member*  
*They/Them, She/Her*



**Ximón Kittok**  
*Member,*  
*Executive Director*  
*They/Them*

