



# Project Funders

## THE CARLS FOUNDATION

The Carls Foundation of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan funds non-profit organizations in Michigan, including: Health care facilities and programs, especially prevention and treatment of hearing impairment; Human services organizations especially for disadvantaged children; and Preservation of natural areas, open space, and areas of particular natural beauty or historic significance.

William and Marie Carls established the Carls Foundation in 1961. Bill Carls immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1924 at the age of 21. With his training and experience in European apprentice programs, he was readily employed by major industrial companies in Detroit. In 1945, Bill Carls started Numatics, Inc. in his garage. The company is headquartered in Highland, Michigan and remains a leading worldwide manufacturer of industrial air valves.

The Carls Foundation has funded a lot of land preservation in our region where few other foundations have. Funded projects include the Sharon Rose Leonatti Memorial Nature Sanctuary in Kimball Township with a large population of Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium, and large parts of Anchor Bay Woods in New Baltimore adjacent to our Gerrits Sanctuary in Ira Township. For more information about the Carls Foundation, see their web site at: <http://CarlsFdn.org/>

## Consumers Energy

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The Consumers Energy Foundation enables communities to thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan – its people, Michigan's prosperity, and our planet. The Foundation is dedicated to ensuring Michigan has world-class natural resources, and that includes supporting environmental education and developing environmental stewards who will sustain Michigan's natural resources for future generations to enjoy. That is why the Wildlife Habitat Council recognized the Foundation for promoting environmental education. In 2019, the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, its employees and retirees contributed more than \$11.5 million to Michigan nonprofits. For more information, visit their website: [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation).



SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company, headquartered in Port Huron, Michigan, delivers natural gas to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula, including in and around the cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Holland, Niles, Port Huron, and Three Rivers, and the central, eastern, and western parts of the Upper Peninsula. SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company is a division of SEMCO Energy, Inc., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of AltaGas Ltd. based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information, see their web site at: <https://www.SemcoEnergyGas.com/main/default>

## Community Foundation

of St. Clair County

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County is the oldest and largest foundation in Michigan's Thumb Coast. The Foundation strives to address the region's opportunities and challenges through like-minded donors and partners with a goal of increasing regional vibrancy and prosperity. Formed in 1944, the Community Foundation manages approximately \$80 million in assets, including the Blue Water River Walk, farmland, Studio 1219, the courtyard in Riverview Plaza along with 260 grantmaking funds. Learn more at [www.stclairfoundation.org](http://www.stclairfoundation.org).



Cargill Salt of Saint Clair specializes in the production of food-grade salt and other salt products from the natural salt deposits underlying the area. One of their unique salts, produced only at the Saint Clair facility, is Alberger flake salts. These are tiny, multi-faceted crystals created from a process that starts with a hollow pyramid shape. These crystals have a large surface area and low bulk density which provides superior adherence, blendability, and rapid solubility compared to regular cube-shaped granulated salt. The rapid solubility of Alberger salt gives a flavor burst when used as a topping on food. It is used in seasonings, doughs, snacks, meats, spice blends, popcorn, nuts, peanut butter, cheeses, and for curing, baking, and pickling. Lay's potato chips and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are made with the Alberger salt produced only at the Saint Clair plant. For more information about Alberger flake salts see their web site at: <http://www.cargill.com/food-beverage/na/alberger-flake-salts>. Cargill Salt has long supported environmental efforts in the Blue Water Area, including the annual Saint Clair County Earth Fair and Saint Clair County Sturgeon Festival. For more information about Cargill Salt, see their web site at: <http://www.cargill.com/home>.