



## News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Wilczynski  
586.945.1250  
[amywpr@gmail.com](mailto:amywpr@gmail.com)

### **Advancing Macomb Awarded \$118,000 Grant From The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation *Grant to Bolster Advancing Macomb's Reach and Impact***

**Mount Clemens, Mich.** (Sept. 8, 2023) – [Advancing Macomb](#), a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, was awarded a \$118,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for operational capacity building.

"We are extremely grateful to the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for this generous grant," said Brian Pilarski, board chair of Advancing Macomb. "This funding will help us expand our reach and impact throughout Macomb County and set us up for continued success in 2024."

"Advancing Macomb plays a pivotal role within the nonprofit sector of Macomb County," said Jim Boyle, vice president of programs and communications of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. "We are excited to contribute to their growth as they continue their coordinating efforts to strengthen the nonprofit community in the region."

In 2023, Advancing Macomb continued to invigorate communities and build the nonprofit infrastructure in Macomb County. Highlights include:

- **Launching the inaugural Community Engagement Summit** at Macomb Community College as part of a broader initiative to strengthen Macomb County communities. This kick-off event, attended by business leaders, elected officials, nonprofit leaders and community residents, served to inspire investment in emotionally engaging citizen-led projects that enhance the county and region's quality of life and economic vitality. The summit served as the launch to a broader plan for Advancing Macomb leadership to work with Macomb County cities and townships to bring community-building ideas to life.
- **Celebrating a successful first year of Breaking Barriers to Play**, a program that levels the playing field and makes recreation accessible and affordable to youth and families in underserved communities in Macomb County. Over the past year, 600 kids have participated in Breaking Barriers to Play camps and leagues. The program has expanded beyond Mount Clemens to serve youth in the City of Fraser. Programming will also be offered to students in the Clintondale School District in the fall of 2023.



- **Growing the Advancing Macomb Nonprofit Roundtable**, a monthly forum for nonprofit leaders to seek and provide feedback, brainstorm solutions, learn new strategies and identify collaboration areas. The Advancing Macomb Nonprofit Roundtable has grown from 20 to 80 organizations strong and continues to expand. It has connected nonprofits to valuable resources, introduced members directly to funders and addressed important issues in the nonprofit sector.

"Our board members, community leaders, sponsors and donors have helped us gain significant momentum this year to support our mission," said Pilarski. "Their support is critical in helping us transform our vision for Macomb County into a reality."

# # #

#### **About Advancing Macomb**

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit [advancingmacomb.com](http://advancingmacomb.com).

#### **About The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation**

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a grantmaking organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The two areas reflect the devotion of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of his beloved Buffalo Bills NFL team. Prior to his passing in 2014, Mr. Wilson provided that a significant share of his estate be used to continue a life-long generosity of spirit by funding the Foundation that bears his name. Based in Detroit, the Foundation began with a grantmaking capacity of \$1.2 billion over a 20-year period, which expires January 8, 2035. This structure is consistent with Mr. Wilson's desire for the Foundation's impact to be immediate, substantial, measurable, and overseen by those who knew him best. For more information visit [www.rcwjrf.org](http://www.rcwjrf.org).