was constant for MCF in 2018. We said good-bye to our President since 2014, Trista Harris, at the end of the summer; then just as the leaves began to change colors, we welcomed Peg Birk as interim President. We’re thankful to the team that helped us through this big transition. Throughout the year, many of our members joined together to oppose the Census citizenship question, an ongoing concern for ensuring an accurate count in 2020. Our Executive in Residence, Susan Hammel, had another busy year meeting with members and talking about what impact investing is, and how it can create positive social, environmental and financial return. As the year came to a close, MCF board and staff took the time to recalibrate and begin the work on changing processes and procedures to improve how MCF serves its members into 2019 and beyond.

When you’re an MCF member, you are noticed and recognized.

• We get personal to meet your needs.
• We plug you into up-to-date data.
• We give visibility to highlight your philanthropy.

The work of community foundations and their contributions today vs 40 years ago was thoroughly reflected upon with an article in the Star Tribune and on MCF’s blog.

We officially launched a call for all members to begin reporting their grantmaking data to Foundation Center, which will greatly improve up-to-date data on where and what is being funded both locally and globally.

When you’re an MCF member, you create change and achieve impact.

• We amplify your voice and the collective voice of Minnesota’s philanthropic community.
• We advocate with you for a strong independent sector and an inclusive and equitable Minnesota.

Together we created a Minnesota-specific communication and mobilization plan to ensure that Minnesota’s historically undercounted communities (HUC) are engaged in the 2020 Census.

Members focused on understanding implications of the new, 2017 federal tax bill for charitable giving, philanthropy and the communities grantmakers serve.

Once again, many new professionals to the field were able to attend our New Grantmaker Institute, where training is geared to help people explore their personal mission, identity and experience that they bring to the field while understanding the broader system in which the work happens.

When you’re an MCF member, you are a more effective grantmaker.

• We provide resources to enhance your effectiveness.
• We support ethical principles in philanthropy.
• We offer programs to expand your knowledge.

Our conference included Ari Berman who talked about protecting voting access for all, Shanelle Matthews who formerly worked as the director of communications for the Black Lives Matter Global Network, and Kelly Ryan from Incourage, a funder in rural Wisconsin that has worked to advance an inclusive and sustainable economy in an area historically vulnerable to changing economic forces.

When you’re an MCF member, you are connected to a talented sector of peers and leaders.

• We provide networks to help you learn from others.
• We offer opportunities to develop your leadership.
• We serve you close to home.

Our conference included Ari Berman who talked about protecting voting access for all, Shanelle Matthews who formerly worked as the director of communications for the Black Lives Matter Global Network, and Kelly Ryan from Incourage, a funder in rural Wisconsin that has worked to advance an inclusive and sustainable economy in an area historically vulnerable to changing economic forces.
MCF is our go-to resource for information, contacts and influence. Through our connection with MCF, we’ve had the opportunity to participate in collaborative efforts like the Government Relations and Public Policy Committee, the Minnesota Disaster Philanthropy Working Group and the Rural Funders Working Group. Coming together with our peers on these public policy initiatives allows us to have a voice in the state of Minnesota.

— Tim Beaton, JD at FM Area Foundation

Public policy decisions have the potential to fundamentally remake the independent sector. That makes it critical for foundations to stay informed and present. Now more than ever, MCF’s leadership on the public policy front is vital to its members...and all the individuals those members serve.

— Dominic Papatola, Otto Bremer Foundation

MCF gives me an opportunity to connect with peers, learn from colleagues, be courageous in my voice and help create positive change. MCF has always created a space for me to grow professionally and personally.

— Mala Thao at Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundations

MCF membership is an investment in sustaining Minnesota’s tradition of philanthropic leadership. We each get better at our work through MCF, and Minnesota gets better as we keep working together to do more. At the Medica Foundation, we have found MCF to be a welcoming and valuable community. Members are so willing to share connections, best practices, learnings and more. I encourage all members to be involved in whatever way works best for them. You will get back more than you give.

— JoAnn Birkholz, Medica Foundation