

Tammy Carey, Chief Executive Officer
Community Foundation for Oceana County
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Tammy Carey is the Chief Executive Officer for the Community Foundation for Oceana County, having served in that position since 2002.

She is responsible for overseeing all administrative and leadership functions in support of the Foundation's mission to enhance the lives of the people of Oceana County by leading, promoting and channeling philanthropy to connect resources with needs. Carey served as a board trustee for one year prior to accepting the Executive Director position. Her interest in joining the board mirrors the satisfaction she has felt in helping to move forward the good work of the Foundation and the community it serves.

The Community Foundation for Oceana County (CFOC) was established in 1989 as an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. As of January, 1, 2020, CFOC began operations as an independent foundation, having received 501(c)3 designation from the IRS in October 2019. Carey feels especially proud of the Foundation's leadership in designing a means for bringing the power of philanthropy to a small rural community. The Oceana Foundation has experienced significant growth in assets in the past 5 years (\$13 million in total assets) and has distributed over \$6 million dollars back to the community since inception.

Carey earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Miami University of Ohio business school in Marketing. Upon graduating she moved to the New York City to work for ABC Television as the Research Manager for KTRK-Houston. She then accepted a position with the AC Nielsen/BASES, a marketing research consulting company, as an Account Manager. Upon moving to Oceana County in 1992 she enjoyed an entrepreneurial spirit, developing her own consulting company and working with a small manufacturer. Her community service activities include Shelby Rotary Club member (past President), Oceana County Economic Alliance board member, Pentwater Service Club member, Oceana Center Grange member, Chair of the Sandy Woods Association board in Silver Lake. She participates in many Foundation-related roles, including Be Nice advisory committee, Oceana Employer Resource Network, Oceana CAN! (College Access Network), Read early, Read often literacy program and Pentwater-Hart Trail development committee.

Carey resides in Shelby with her husband Sean, recently becoming empty nesters! They are proud parents of two Michigan Technological University and one University of Michigan graduates (with one MTU grad in the making). Together they also modestly participate in the local tourism and agriculture industries by managing a 15 acre Christmas tree farm and two summer rental cottages at Silver Lake. They also share a deep appreciation for Oceana County, its beautiful countryside and recreational opportunities and historic roots that date back 3 generations in Sean's family.