

(Remarks regarding Nomination for the 2023 “Make It Happen Awards” by New Chapter Coaching—CFCM was a finalist but not the recipient of the Organization award.)

So grateful for Jaime Freidrichs’ nomination of the Community Foundation for this 2023 Make It Happen Award.

The Community Foundation of Central Missouri is a “make it happen” organization. We get a lot done by just a few people, and what we do as we facilitate philanthropy helps untold numbers of individuals not only here in central Missouri but around the country.

One of our flagship programs is our annual CoMoGives campaign, and over 250 organizations have participated in that yearly effort since 2013. Last year the campaign collected \$1,908,000 towards our goal of \$2MM. We fell just 4.5% short of our goal in a year that saw 20% drop in market values and an 8/5% inflation rate. We’ve announced a \$2MM goal again for this year and hope that we’ll make it this time.

But our main work is our establishing of long-term funds, which last year granted out approximately \$2.7MM to nonprofit organizations.

You add CoMoGives with our regular grants and last year was a banner year of getting \$4.6MM into the hands of organizations improving lives along with us.

We couldn’t do what we do without our board of directors, past and present, and I thank them for their dedicated service. I thank Janet Deneke, our part-time administrative assistant, she wears many of the same hats I do, and she serves capably in her capacity, and I also thank the City of Columbia, who tasked some staff and volunteers in 2009 to find a way to start a community foundation in Columbia, and, here we are doing good stuff as envisioned.

Thanks again!