

IMPACTING

with our partners



community foundation

Oceana County

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L-R: Maggie, Hannah, Tammy, Gwen

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The Community Foundation for Oceana County is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization designed to help people create a lasting impact. With nearly 190 funds established since 1989, we work with donors, nonprofits, businesses, leaders, doers and more to make our county a stronger, healthier, more vibrant place to live. By connecting donors with causes personal to them and responding to ever-changing issues, we are all united around common goals of improvement, positive change and equitable access to resources for everyone to thrive.



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ON OUR COVER

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LETTER to our donors

We selected our report theme, IMPACTING, to showcase the many actions of committed partners in moving Oceana County forward. For a Foundation is really the sum of all its parts – the fundholders pursuing their charitable goals, the nonprofits helping clients thrive and community partners making incredible investments in people, place and prosperity. These actions are in response to expressed needs and with our partners, impact is multiplied many times over.

Sometimes the pace of our work is so swift that we miss those moments to reflect on the growth and gains. We appreciate this annual effort, even though it is a big lift to produce, to share stories and photos from the last year.

We are amazed by the diversity of needs now met; by the programs developed and in progress; by the projects planned for our future. How did all this progress happen in the span of just one year? Through the actions of inspired partners – who believe that the answer is to invest in our towns, our residents, and what they believe in and enjoy: Oceana County’s natural beauty, the spirit of our towns, our diversity and the inclusion of all residents, our ability to succeed.

In this report, you’ll read stories of projects to enrich and protect our towns and people. Or, helping our children learn & plan for their futures. Or, the many shared investments with our fundholders – from programs that support their favorite charitable causes to supporting students in their career dreams. We are excited to share the launch of the Complete Your Degree program for adult learners. Based on our first cohort of students, we are assured that we are helping to fill an employment skill gap and increase household prosperity. We’ve said this before – while endowments are what allow a foundation to endure forever, donors & partners are what allow a foundation to truly grow to meet evolving community needs.

Simply said – we are grateful for your continued partnership and the IMPACT we are making together.

Randy Wagner BOARD CHAIR
Tammy Carey CEO



2021

by the numbers...

\$1.29
MILLION
IN GIFTS
\$18.2 MILLION
IN TOTAL ASSETS

733 GIFTS

13.8% ROI

\$381,293
IN STOCK AND IRA GIFTS

14
NEW FUNDS
(184 TOTAL)

\$944,407
IN GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS
(\$8.7 MILLION SINCE 1999)

\$239,650
IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
220 SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN!

46
LEGACY SOCIETY
MEMBERS

192
NEW DONORS
(WOW!)

\$103,854
IN GIFTS RAISED FOR **\$50,000**
YEAR-END CHALLENGE MATCH
TO ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

\$117,844
IN CFO UNRESTRICTED FUND GRANTS

**GIVING
MADE
EASY**

WWW.
OCEANAFUNDATION.
ORG/GIVE/GIVE-NOW



Statement OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for year ended December 31, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$355,430	\$637,175
Prepaid expenses	\$	\$1,310
Investments	\$17,865,000	\$15,344,919
Property & Equipment, net	\$6,949	\$9,753
Total Assets	\$18,227,379	\$15,993,157
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	\$4,752	\$10,883
Funds held as agency funds	\$636,610	\$580,591
Total Liabilities	\$641,362	\$591,474
NET ASSETS		
Total Net Assets	\$17,586,017	\$15,401,683
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$18,227,379	\$15,993,157

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	2021	2020
Contributions	\$1,266,158	\$14,623,502
Net investment and other income	\$2,036,515	\$1,817,717
Total Revenue and other support	\$3,302,673	\$16,441,219
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$888,434	\$898,233
Operating	\$229,905	\$141,303
Total Expenses	\$1,118,339	\$1,039,536
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$2,184,334	\$15,401,683
Net Assets, January 1*	\$15,401,683	\$
Net Assets, December 31	\$17,586,017	\$15,401,683

Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services, Investment Managers | Kruggel-Lawton, CPA (auditor)
*All assets transferred from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County on 03/02/20

GIVING TAX-WISE WITH YOUR IRA

More people are directing their Required Minimum Distribution or transferring up to \$100,000 per year to support favorite nonprofits and causes via Foundation Funds. Some have also established new Unrestricted Funds -that benefit Oceana's greatest needs & opportunities. **Call us to learn more about this giving option.**

CHALLENGE MATCH

We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has provided a challenge match until December 31, 2022. We invite you to make a donation to support our Investment or Administrative Funds to help us meet our \$25,000 challenge match. **Your gifts will support greatest needs and provide leadership in Oceana County.**



Creating

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY

In 2020, a 35-acre parcel was gifted to Shelby Township for a comprehensive \$5.2 million community park. The land is located approximately two miles northwest of the Village of Shelby, on the Hart-Montague Trail. To date, the project has secured gifts and grants totaling more than half of the funds needed for construction. The Foundation, which is the fiscal sponsor for the capital campaign, holds those funds. The Township broke ground in September 2022 so that the construction work can proceed on a parallel path with fundraising. They hope to finish fundraising by the end of 2023 and complete the park construction by 2025.

When asked to establish the Shelby Township Community Park Project Fund, our Board of Trustees took a moment to reflect on what the Park would mean. The Park is at the center of the County and along the State of Michigan's first paved rail trail. The Community Park invites something new and unexpected to a community with unique resources like Lake Michigan, Sand Dunes, inland lakes and nature trails. It will be Oceana County's first large multi-sport recreational park. It will have softball, soccer, basketball, pickleball, and playgrounds for different age groups. The park will also have a walking trail, shelters, and an amphitheater. It combines so many interests into a single destination – a “shared backyard” where everyone can come together.

When looking to jumpstart Oceana's economic future, the answer is to invest - in our towns, our residents, and what they believe in and enjoy: West Michigan's natural beauty; the spirit of our towns; our diversity and the inclusion of all residents. For future generations, the Community Park will show exactly what we believe about this place - that we are a community worth investing in. It will be a jewel and point of pride not only for Shelby, but for Oceana County as a whole.



Helping

A COMMUNITY CAPITALIZE ON ITS POTENTIAL

A key goal of the Foundation's strategic plan is to increase our engagement in economic development activities. A critical part of the journey is understanding a community's needs & opportunities. Recognizing the importance of resident input and empowerment, the Foundation launched a series of regional needs assessments, beginning with Shelby in 2018 and Pentwater in 2019. Community assessments create a space for collaboration and productive discussion, as residents provide feedback about which parts of their community they wish to preserve and change. We helped build a shared roadmap between residents, businesses, nonprofit partners, and government officials by holding focus groups and town hall meetings.

After a year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation's attention turned to the east side of the county: Hesperia in 2021 and Walkerville in 2023. The Hesperia Community Assessment was very well attended as a partnership between the Foundation, the Village of Hesperia and Chamber of Commerce, and the Oceana County Economic Alliance.

HESPERIA'S FIVE TOP THEMES:

- Develop a strong business sector downtown
- Create a diverse mix of housing types and price points
- Increase access to outdoor activities through infrastructure
- Build more access to affordable high-speed internet
- Create more opportunities for organized youth activities.



2021-2022 Youth Advisory Council with public safety officials

School Safety & KNOX BOXES

With the recent memories of tragedies at Oxford High School and the Robb Elementary School, student safety is a pressing concern in the minds of Michigan families. For local schools and public safety officials across the state, the question is how to guarantee students the right to learn in a safe environment. The rise of school-based violence is a complex issue, almost as complicated as how to empower and safeguard students against potential threats.

In 2019, the Oceana County Sheriff's Department recognized that preparing schools for emergency lockdowns was not enough, as it prevented public safety officials from being able to provide life-saving aid. The Sheriff's Department and the Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) partnered to install Knox Boxes at every school in Oceana County. Through the Oceana Youth Fund and the Community Investment Fund, YAC awarded the Sheriff's Department an initial grant of \$3,000. The Knox Box project received a second grant of \$2,098 from the Foundation's Friends of Oceana County Sheriff's Office Fund.

Named after the well-protected Fort Knox in Kentucky, Knox Boxes are small steel boxes installed outside buildings. The boxes house the building's master key set and are locked 24/7. Emergency personnel can access the boxes through their agency's serialized, unduplicatable Knox Box key. Each box in Oceana County will open with the same key. Access to an Oceana Knox Box key is monitored under the protective eye of local public safety officials. The project placed two boxes outside of the schools' entrances. Before Knox Boxes,

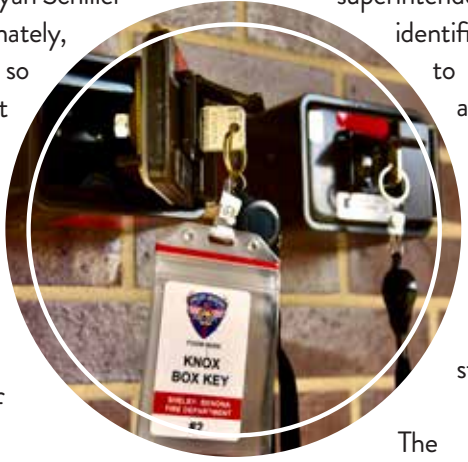
emergency personnel faced the issue of breaking into the locked building or finding an available key.

"For many years, law enforcement has been asking and encouraging our schools to make their buildings more secure. The schools have succeeded in this goal," Oceana County Undersheriff Ryan Schiller explained. "Unfortunately, our schools are now so hard to get into that the reverse problem exists - our public safety professionals cannot get in when an emergency occurs. We believe we need to be proactive and prepare to the best of our abilities."

While delayed by the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the Knox Boxes were installed throughout Oceana County's school districts in the spring of 2022. The boxes are weather-and tamper-proof. They are designed to last for years once mounted outside the schools' main entrances. The Oceana County Sheriff's Department and other emergency agencies plan to provide crisis training to school officials, incorporating the Knox Boxes into their response process. The Knox Boxes will be tested throughout these training exercises to ensure their usability in time-sensitive situations.

The innovative thinking of the Oceana County Sheriff's Office led to the Knox Box project to enhance our schools' existing safety measures. As a one-time investment,

Knox Boxes are a lasting commitment to our students' and teachers' well-being. The successful installation of the Knox Boxes is due to the collaboration between the Sheriff's Department and its county-wide school safety committee, a group of public safety professionals and every Oceana superintendent. Together, they identified the ongoing need to make school campuses accessible to emergency aid. Every school district was committed to installing the Knox Boxes and continuing the conversation on how to maximize student safety.



The partnership between the Foundation's Youth Council and the Sheriff's Department is crucial to connecting students and public safety officials to work together for safe learning environments.



“We believe we need to be proactive and prepare to the best of our abilities.”

Undersheriff Ryan Schiller



PROTECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Throughout the emergencies it faces, the Grant Township Fire Department approaches the unknown as a family. "Our ultimate goal is to make sure all our men and women come home," Fire Chief Dan Yost explained. "Our duty is to protect the lives of residents and visitors through fire prevention and education, fire and rescue response and the provision of emergency medical aid." Fire Chief Yost is extending this philosophy throughout the county's first responder community through the Department's Fire Rehab Trailer project. The Fire Rehab Trailer is designed to protect the well-being of first responders by creating a portable space to rehydrate, rest, and receive medical attention if needed. The county gave the Grant Fire Department a trailer, launching the program. The Fire Rehab Trailer received a \$4,000 grant award from the Foundation's Henry & Dorothy Fischer Family Fund for refurbishment.

The Fire Rehab Trailer was furnished with heating and cooling, making it an important place for first responders to temporarily regroup while out in the field. The Fischer Family grant also covered costs associated with a generator and lighting. Community donations provided seating, other equipment, beverages and snacks. The Department completed the trailer in 2022 and it was put to use during the landmark structure fire in downtown Hart in June, offering first responders needed support & safety.

INVESTING IN WATER SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

Oceana County has 27 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and 65 inland lakes, many swamps, and miles of rivers and streams. In addition to rescue and/or recovery of a person, the dive team of the Oceana County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) receives requests to dive for property or evidence used in an investigation.

Through the Oceana Women Who Care and the Richard & Ryan Walsworth Memorial Fund, the Dive Team received over \$23,000 to purchase a new specialized trailer, replacing an aged equipment van. Funding also paid for additional equipment and outfitting the trailer for efficient storage & organization for fast deployment in an emergency. The grant was facilitated through the Foundation's Friends of the Oceana County Sheriff Office Fund, making it the largest public safety grant the Fund has ever awarded.



Oceana Women Who Care is a giving circle that has become an essential part of our area's philanthropic community. Recognizing that as a group they can give significantly to propel a project forward, the dive trailer project became a reality at the March 2022 meeting when it won the vote! The Walsworth Fund's significant contribution completed the funding needs and provided an opportunity to thank responders for their special caring to their family.

Another important program of the OCSO and supported by the Friend's Fund is the annual Water Safety Days in Pentwater. While it is common to see the Sheriff's Department patrolling the waterways, Lake Michigan can become dangerous to those unaware of water safety practices. Deputy Sheriff Tim Simon established this event to teach kids and their families the fundamentals of water safety. Since its creation, hundreds of children's life jackets have been given away to participants. Safety Partners for 2022's Water Safety Day included the Pentwater Police and Fire Department, Life EMS, Michigan DNR, Michigan State Police - Hart Post, and Safe Kids.



PENTWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT MOBILE CRISIS TECH SUPPORT GRANT

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's mental health crisis was compounded by the effects of isolation and reduced access to medical care. The Pentwater Police Department saw the availability of telehealth as an opportunity to better serve individuals facing mental health and substance abuse concerns. Through the Foundation's Urgent Needs Fund, the Pentwater Police Department received a \$2,000 grant to purchase video conferencing equipment for officers in the field. In partnership with West Michigan Community Mental Health (WCMCMH), members of Oceana's Mobile Crisis Team will be able to connect individuals to trained WCMCMH professionals for immediate emergency consultation. WCMCMH matched the Urgent Needs Fund award, bringing the project's total support to \$4,000.

The grants supplied eight local emergency agencies with iPads to use when answering mental health crises. During the video conference, WCMCMH staff meets with individuals to conduct a risk assessment, list available resources, and develop a safety and crisis plan. In the past, the Mobile Crisis Team was able to communicate with mental health professionals via phone calls. Integrating face-to-face communication with video conferencing creates a further sense of personalization, as patients can see the clinician. The Mobile Crisis Team serves residents of all ages across Oceana, Mason, and Lake Counties.

College FOR KIDS CAMP

Empowering students begins with connecting their interests with critical skills – a realization guiding West Shore Community College’s ‘College for Kids Camp.’ Over 200 students, 9-15 years old, from Oceana, Lake, Manistee, and Mason counties spent a week exploring careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). With a \$5,000 combined grant from the Oceana Youth Fund and Mrs. Mullen’s Closet Fund, the Foundation sponsored 32 Oceana students to visit WSCC to explore skill clusters and Skills for Success framework. These essential skills include Technology Literacy, Collaboration and Global Thinking, Communication, Critical Thinking, Ethical Citizenship, and more. Removing the cost of the summer camp, each scholarship covered supplies, field trips, daily lunches, a t-shirt, and transportation to and from WSCC. A significant underlying bonus to this program is having students experience campus life at a young age, helping to build their college-going attitude and plan. These experiences of actual “feet on campus” impact their ability to envision themselves as part of college life.

Both Oceana Youth Advisory Council, the stewards of the Youth Fund, and Mrs. Mullen’s Closet Fund have sponsored WSCC’s camp for two years. Mrs. Mullen’s Closet was established in memory of Dyanne Mullen, a beloved educator, principal, and advocate for Hart elementary school students. Mrs. Mullen’s Closet began when Dyanne started buying clothing to build up her office closet for any students in need. Dyanne’s co-workers knew to send students to her office to find warm, clean clothes without knowing the source. Recognizing how her generosity helped hundreds of students, Dyanne’s husband, Mark, family & friends established her memorial fund at the Foundation. Mrs. Mullen’s Closet Fund continues her legacy of helping elementary students with winter clothing needs – with closets now at all elementary schools in Oceana County. The Mrs. Mullen’s Closet advisory committee is also an avid supporter of local youth initiatives like the ‘College for Kids Camp,’ working to fulfill Dyanne’s dream that all students have the resources and encouragement needed to thrive.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER

Exploration Initiative

Successfully run as a pilot program for Shelby Middle School students in 2021, this Middle School program expanded to all Oceana Schools in the Fall of 2022. The initiative is three-pronged with specific goals:

- 8th Grade Career Days - To engage students in career exploration opportunities guided by local community members that support academic rigor, knowledge, and skill development.
- Campus Visits – To enable all Oceana 8th graders to have an opportunity to visit a college or training center campus to better understand what college life is and how they can fit in.
- 9th grade orientation - Visioning and goal setting with 9th grade students for a positive start (from the importance of their GPA to receiving a class t-shirt) and making the most of their high school years towards a bright future.

The initiative is coordinated by the Oceana CAN! (College Access Network), led by Coordinator Alyssa Merten and was funded in partnership with the Mrs. Mullen’s Closet Fund advisory committee. “We recognized that if we are going to set expectations and build a college-going culture in our schools, it is essential for students to have these experiences long before application time in their senior year. Starting young and providing an overview of post-secondary education options, including apprenticeships, skilled trades training, certificates, and degrees is important as students build out their unique educational pathways,” explained Merten. The Foundation acts as the fiscal partner for Oceana CAN!, receiving grants and contributions on behalf of the Network, and provides important leadership capabilities.



PENTWATER ARTS COUNCIL – SCULPTURE WALK

How do you spark even more creative expression in a town rich with culture, history and natural resources? The Pentwater Arts Council (PAC) knows the answer: through community engagement and placemaking. PAC is beginning its three-year-long Sculpture Walk Initiative in collaboration with the Pentwater Downtown Development Authority. In this project, five sculptures were placed along downtown Hancock Street. In preparation for its first summer, PAC’s Sculpture Initiative received a \$6,500 grant supported by the Foundation’s Randall and Linda Wagner Family and the Janie Denman Legacy Funds.

“The intent is not only a placemaking project to establish Pentwater as an art destination,” PAC secretary Judy Pazol said, “but also to provide art education to the community and the students in schools within Oceana County.” Through the grant, PAC will be able to fund transportation for students to visit the installation and provide educational packets to the community. The award also supports sculpture installation costs and advertising. The project centers on Pentwater’s lakeshore community. Visitors had the opportunity to vote for their favorite sculpture to win the ‘People’s Choice Award’ (pictured here). Popular installations can be sold to visitors or permanently placed within Pentwater. While currently slated as a three-year project, PAC and the Village of Pentwater have high hopes to expand the initiative.



Students Helping Teachers

Annually in August, teachers have the opportunity to apply for teacher mini grants up to \$250, a program run by the Foundation’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC). In 2022, the program provided 38 grants, nearly \$13,000, to seven schools in Oceana County – nearly doubling the number of grants from 2021. In addition to support from the Oceana Youth Fund, the program significantly grew thanks to partnerships with several donor advised funds of the Foundation including Mrs. Mullen’s Closet, Little Point Sable Arts for Oceana, Ralph’s Kids, Nobles Family Medical Reserve Corps and the Mary Ann Peterson “Grandma Pete” Memorial Fund(s).

These awards fund special project materials, curriculum expansion, equipment needs, special training, skill development, and enrichment activities. “Student choice is a powerful motivator. Honoring student voices in selecting new classroom library titles was an exciting and powerful experience,” shared a Hart Public Schools teacher who received funding to buy new books. Examples of 2022 awards include alternative flexible seating for students, new graphing calculators, translation assistant programs, microscopes, and even CPR training! The Teacher Mini-Grant program is a great way to thank our educators for their tremendous impact in Oceana County.



Flexible seating mini-grant



Mole Day tie-dyeing mini-grant



STEM tools mini-grant



Community helper dramatic play mini-grant



HELPING OUR LITTLEST LEARNERS GET A GREAT START

Through a state grant, the Foundation’s Read Early, Read Often (RERO) program partnered with the Great Start Collaborative to distribute much-needed childcare items across Oceana County. RERO volunteers put together 100+ Talking is Teaching-branded tote bags. Every bag included a baby onesie, toddler shirt, blanket, bib, and a bath towel. Not only are local families receiving brand-new, long-lasting supplies, but every item also encourages caregivers with prompts to talk, read, and share with their children. These daily interactions are crucial to developing their early literacy skills.

The bags were distributed by the District Health Department #10 through their WIC and Maternal Infant Health Programs. Other distribution partners included the Department of Health & Human Services Migrant program, Early Head Start centers, and New Era Trinity Lutheran Church’s Baby Pantry. Remaining materials were distributed at local events, including the New Era Farmer’s Market, Oceana County Fair and Village of Shelby’s Fall Festival.

Read early. Read often. is an initiative of the Foundation to make free children’s books and early literacy resources accessible and equitable across the County. Research has shown that providing books and educational activities to the families of young children can set the stage for ongoing academic success and degree/credential attainment.

Growing SHARED INVESTMENTS

Creating an Advised Fund takes \$5,000, or the fund minimum can be built up over a period of 5 years, with a starting gift of \$1,000. The Foundation keeps partners in the loop about emerging opportunities, critical needs and what's happening in the community. Annually in the fall, we also survey nonprofits to collate their needs into a community wish list. We also share a grant catalog from our twice annual community grant rounds with our donor partners. Many advisor partners enjoy meeting those wishes & grant requests from their Funds. By pooling resources, the Foundation was able to raise our twice-yearly community grant cap up to \$5,000 and allow our nonprofit partners to submit unique proposals in both grant rounds – significantly increasing impact.



Christmas Shopping for their Community

Another wish list request met by passionate community members was two weather-proof enclosures for Life Rings at Pentwater's north and south channel. For long-term residents Amy LaBarge and Ron Beeber, the wish tapped into their enjoyment of the scenic channel. The couple initially responded to meet that request out of the LaBarge-Beeber Family Fund at the Foundation. Later they also supported the purchase of two Life Rings. Ron & Amy are long-term partners with the Foundation, recognized as Pentwater's 2022 Citizens of the Year for their dedication towards community service, and love to do their Christmas shopping via the Community Wish Lists.



A Necessity, not a Luxury

The Period Project is an effort by the Shelby Chapter of the National Honor Society to provide access to free menstrual hygiene products to Shelby High School students. Providing these products at no cost will ensure menstrual equity, while boosting confidence, increasing academic focus and decreasing period related absenteeism and anxiety. By reducing the stigma around periods, NHS is promoting the fundamental idea that access to free maxi pads and tampons at school is a necessity, not a luxury. The three women pictured did all the project research, wrote and successfully presented the grant to the Youth Advisory Council board. In addition to support from the Youth Fund, three donor advisors (Ordoobadi Family, Ralph's Kids and Fischer Family Funds) enthusiastically provided a combined \$1,700 to purchase and stock two menstrual care dispensers for the women's bathrooms.



Helping Veterans with Equine Therapy

For returning veterans, life can be much different than when they left. Their invaluable military service can make transitioning to residential life a challenge, often with little guided help. Research has shown that long-term therapy in community-based programming, rather than inside an office, can be more beneficial. In response, Stony Lake Therapeutic Riding Center launched its pilot Veteran Program, connecting former service members with equine therapy. With a \$2,500 grant from the Sparks/Ryan Fund, in memory of JT Sackett, a first cohort of veterans received scholarships for six weeks of treatment in 2022.



An Inclusive Place for Women & Girls

We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) understands the importance of West Michigan's natural resources. As the stewards of 651 acres in Walkerville, it connects ecological preservation with gender equity. They work with event programmers to schedule summer-long events geared toward women's history and inclusivity. WWTLC received a \$1,750 grant from an anonymous Foundation donor to remove five large trees from its recreational areas. Felling the trees will improve event safety, accessibility, and capacity by removing hazards and creating more space for campers with disabilities.

Promoting Whole Self Wellness for Students & Staff

Pentwater Mental Health Break Days brings community members, students and professionals together to support students and staff with an opportunity to learn about and engage in activities that promote whole self wellness. Students learn how to manage stress, anxiety and other life obstacles through education and experiences that allow the body and mind to relax and find space to "be." Activities may include yoga, crafting, karaoke, sensory experiences, breathing exercises, wood working, painting and more. The Oceana Youth Advisory Council's Youth and Wayne Elhart Be Nice. Memorial Funds provided a combined grant of \$2,000.



Extending Love and Welcome to Our Immigrant Neighbors



Ensuring Access to Low Cost Immigration Legal Services

Partnering with Hart Wesleyan Church, Immigrant Connection received a \$5,000 anonymous Foundation grant, to help with start-up office costs and accreditation with the Department of Justice. Oceana County was identified as a legal services desert. Now, trained bilingual representatives can help clients apply for reunification, prepare citizenship applications, renew DACA status, prepare work permits and assist with consular processing. They are not accredited to represent clients in removal courts but maintain a referral list of able attorneys. The fees are minimal, and fee waivers are available, so that no person will be denied legal help because of resources.

Helping At-Risk Women & Girls

Gail Paulus lived out her faith by fulfilling her credo, "Love God and love people." With a bright smile and friendly words, her presence would brighten up the room. Her compassion for at-risk children and faith inspired her husband, Steve, and their children, Kirsta and Kyle, to establish the Gail Paulus Family Fund at the Community Foundation for Oceana County in spring of 2022. Soon after, Steve learned about the Harbor House of Hart's mental health grant request to the Foundation. The opportunity represented Gail's lifework – the perfect blend of faith and trauma-informed counseling to help empower young women.



Enticing Reluctant Teen Readers

A grant of \$2,500 from the Mary Ann Peterson "Grandma Pete" Fund will help provide kids a semi-structured learning environment for free at the Hesperia Community Library's new teen room. The goal is to increase traffic of tweens & teens and to continue to motivate reluctant readers with a different reading experience. The grant will add a new collection of Manga/graphic novels & DVD's, teen-friendly furniture and needed shelving. A monthly teen night will engage participants in drawing & writing manga material. The hope is by engaging teenagers in the library now, they become lifelong library users, who in turn will bring their future families to the library and impact overall community literacy.



Equipping for Health & Safety Emergencies

Because of its unique intersection of Lake Michigan, smaller waterways, forests, and farmland, Oceana County's emergency personnel require a high level of adaptability and skill. David Nobles knows this well, as a member and leader of the Oceana County's Medical Reserve Corps. The Corps help prepare communities for unprecedented medical events and large emergencies. David established the Nobles Family Medical Reserve Fund in 2012, in recognition of his dedication to public safety. Through the Foundation's Community Wish Lists, David supported the Oceana County Sheriff's requests for a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for cardiac emergencies and six rope rescue throw bags for ice and water-based rescues.



Examining the White River's Economic Impact

The White River boasts high-quality fishing and paddling opportunities, yet is limited from realizing its full potential as a recreational and environmental asset. The White River Watershed Collaborative launched an effort to study the economic impact of the River in the region. Funded in collaboration with neighboring community foundations, Trout Unlimited, GVSU and West MI Shoreline Regional Development Commission, the study will develop a baseline to gauge progress and to help secure funding for beneficial projects. A combined grant of \$2,500 supports this effort from the Foundation's Community Investment & Eugene Kuhne Environment Funds.



Supporting Seniors with Meals on Wheels

AgeWell Services of West Michigan is a network of staff, volunteers, and clients, all working towards supporting the independence of older and homebound Oceana residents. One of their vital services is providing nutritionally balanced, prepared meals through Meals on Wheels. The program received a combined \$5,000 grant award from the Foundation's Elaine and Lee Curtis Fund, the Health Fund, and the Healthy Youth, Healthy Seniors Fund. Meals on Wheels is more than just a meal, providing a wellness check and social interaction to ensure participants are safe, well, and less socially isolated. Through the grant, AgeWell Services also hopes to replenish its volunteer base, the crucial outreach arm of the program. Its numbers drastically fell due to pandemic-related health concerns.

GROWING

STUDENT POTENTIAL

ANDREW CARTER

FUTURE WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

"My experience at West Shore ESD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program influenced my career goals to work in the energy field," explains Andrew Carter, recipient of the first Larry Wagner Appletree Automotive Skilled Trades Scholarships and Hart High School graduate. He takes great pride in his Eagle Scout service project at Gales Pond and is studying wind power mechanics at the Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology.

NICKOLAS SAWDY

FUTURE WELDING TECHNICIAN

"My grandpa is a stone mason and I have been on job sites since I was six years old. I knew I wanted to be in the trades but wasn't sure which one. My CTE instructor was one of the main reasons I fell in love with welding," shared Nickolas Sawdy. A fellow Hart High School graduate and recipient of the first Larry Wagner Appletree Automotive Skilled Trades Scholarships, Nick is eager to continue his education at Lincoln College of Technology. He diligently pursued any opportunity to earn welding experience, while also an active musician and decorated athlete.

As the industrial arts teacher in Hart Schools and founder of Appletree Automotive, Larry Wagner inspired those around him to pursue their passion for skilled trades and entrepreneurship. Chad Coker, Larry's successor, explains the motivation for establishing the scholarship, "It is our goal to continue Larry's legacy of supporting the young men and women in our community that will become our next generation of skilled tradesmen."

THOMAS HARVELL

FUTURE IT DEPARTMENT MANAGER

"Despite not knowing much about computers, I found that I enjoyed learning at WSCC's Tech Center about the new and old technology that influences our society today," explained Shelby High School graduate Thomas Harvell. Thomas is the recipient of the first Parrington/Heyde Scholarship and is majoring in computer science at Michigan Technological University.

The Parrington/Heyde Scholarship Fund was established by Mary Ellen Heyde and Gordon Parrington after retiring from STEM-based careers. Mary Ellen is a former Ford Executive and chemist, while Gordon taught Westland Public School students biology. Their unique experiences with education inspired the merit-based scholarship supporting careers in STEM.

AUDRIANNA ENNS FUTURE NURSE

"I want to be a nurse so I can brighten people's day and show them that someone cares even when their world is falling apart," shares Audrianna Enns, the recipient of the first Ryan Scott Prudhomme Memorial Scholarship. She recently graduated from Hart High School and now is pursuing her Bachelor of Nursing at Cedarville University. Audrianna is an all-state cross-country and track-and-field runner and active volunteer at her church.

Ryan Scott Prudhomme strove daily to brighten the lives of those around him through servanthood and service. To honor his dedication to his community and service, Ryan's scholarship is awarded to students illustrating ambition, resilience, service, and passion in their pursuit of education.



ANDREW CARTER



KYRA FAIRCHILD



NICKOLAS SAWDY



BRANDON MACHER



THOMAS HARVELL



ELIZABETH GERARDI



AUDRIANNA ENNS

KYRA FAIRCHILD FUTURE NURSE

"I would love to go into the medical field - it's been my dream since middle school," explains Kyra Fairchild. After graduating from Shelby High School, Kyra is now studying nursing at West Shore Community College. She received the first Sharon Bowen Memorial Scholarship award. Kyra started towards her dream in her senior year, studying Allied Health through West Shore's CTE program.

The Sharon Bowen Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Shelby residents with a passion for health or music. Sharon's greatest talent was her ability to connect with people and she is actively remembered by her network of friends, family, and fellow musicians.

BRANDON MACHER

FUTURE VETERINARIAN

"I have been a member of 4-H for many years and had the opportunity to attend the MSU 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp. This camp really piqued my interest in becoming a big animal veterinarian," explained Brandon Macher, Pentwater High School Graduate and recipient of the Elaine & Lee Curtis Scholarship. He is studying fisheries & wildlife management at Lake Superior State University before pursuing a graduate degree at MSU in veterinary medicine.

Elaine established two charitable funds at the Foundation in 2021 to celebrate this pair of teachers' love of Pentwater - a scholarship fund and a donor advised fund to support community programs & projects. Their philanthropy recognizes their favorite features of Pentwater and Oceana County: its people, schools, and natural resources.

ELIZABETH GERARDI

FUTURE PEDIATRIC NURSE

"I took the Allied Health CTE course at WSCC and it helped me realize I would enjoy the medical field, especially nursing," shared Elizabeth Gerardi, Hart High School graduate and the first recipient of the Ruth Jean Oomen Nursing Scholarship. Elizabeth also served as the Vice President of the Foundation's Youth Advisory Council Board and considered it one of her most significant accomplishments.

The Ruth Jean Oomen Nursing Scholarship was established by her five children in recognition of her long career as a nurse at local hospitals, medical offices and "informal nurse" to neighbors & family. She honored the profession with immense pride and always offered respect to people who entered it. The family hopes to nurture the careers of young men and women who have that same sense of mission and purpose.

IMPACTING

ADULT ACHIEVEMENT

The Foundation Board began an in-depth look at our scholarship program's impact in 2019, including how to support adult learners. While examining data about the economic and educational status of our residents, as well as the skills and background most needed by area employers, it quickly became clear that we needed to help local adults achieve degrees and credentials towards meeting an employment skill gap, both to increase household prosperity and foster a more vibrant economy.

We also found partners to work with and existing programs to build on to create the Complete Your Degree (CYD), modeled on a program of the St. Clair Community Foundation. The State of Michigan's Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect programs, the Oceana College Access Network, and the Community Colleges of West Shore and Muskegon, were all key to developing our first



cohort of four students. In addition to providing assistance for tuition, books and supplies not covered by other programs, CYD also includes working with a Success Coach from the Foundation staff, as well as funds for "life needs" such as child care, medical issues, technology, transportation and other unanticipated costs that can be a roadblock to higher education.

The CYD application is open on our website and we are actively recruiting additional candidates who plan to enroll in the winter 2023 semester at the Community Colleges of West Shore and Muskegon - and ready to complete their degree or credential.

WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR FIRST COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE COHORT...



ALAN CRUZ

ALAN CRUZ graduated from Walkerville High in 2009. Instead of applying to college, he stayed home to help care for his five siblings, helping out his working parents. He went to work for Country Dairy, and over 12 years became supervisor of production, sanitation and quality. But he also developed an interest in electronics, and dreamed of having his own business as an electrician. Toward that goal, he earned a position as Electrical Apprentice at Indian Summer this past summer, and is completing his studies at West Shore Community College this year. Married with five children, Alan lives in New Era and will be the first in his family to earn a degree.

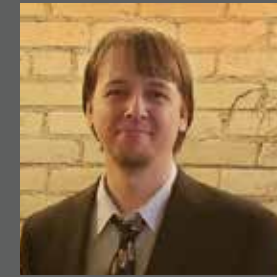
He tells his siblings, "Always look forward, be your best self."



STEPHANIE DAILEY

STEPHANIE DAILEY is married with six children, three of which were adopted from an abusive home, all who needed significant health care. Not surprisingly, she is interested in pursuing a nursing degree. At 43, she is proud of her career as a stay-at-home mom, but with almost all of the kids "grown and flown," she is ready for a new challenge. She started working as a caretaker at White Lake Assisted Living and earned a GED with a medicine tech credential just this past summer. She is excited to begin her studies towards a nursing degree from Muskegon Community College.

"My kids are proud of me."



NATHAN HARTUNG

NATHAN HARTUNG graduated from Pentwater High in 2005 and began attending West Shore Community College during Covid, but had to withdraw for medical reasons. Diagnosed with a debilitating immune system bone disease, he has found treatment and has more stability, and is very eager to complete a degree that will give him financial independence and personal growth. He has a lifelong interest in computers and hopes to work in network administration and/or cybersecurity. Before he left WSCC, he also had a job in their IT department, and hopes to return to it while he is a student.

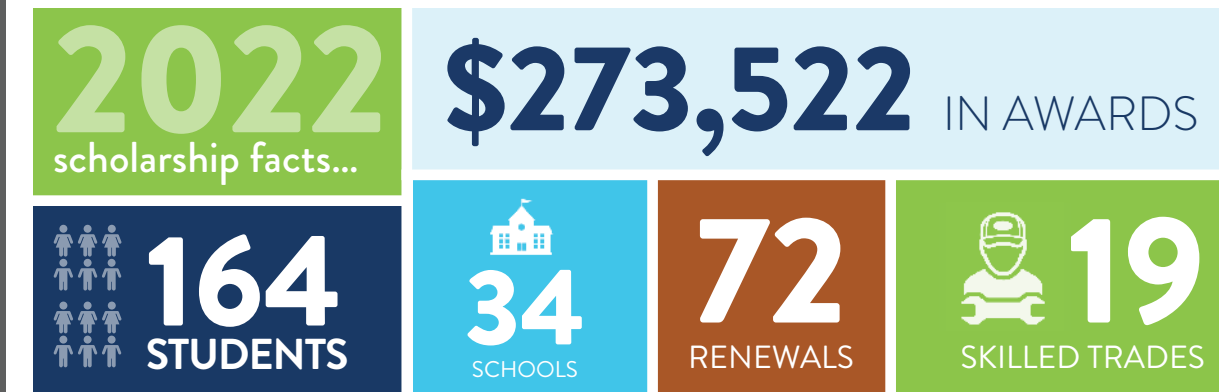
"Going back to school after 10 years is a game changer for me."



SIDNEY IBARRA

SIDNEY IBARRA says she "fell" into a job as an associate teacher at Shelby's Early Childhood Center through volunteering there. A 2007 graduate of Shelby High, she is the mother of three children and had not worked outside the home in ten years. She was excited and nervous about getting back into the workforce, but was surprised by how much she enjoyed it. She earned a Child Development Associate credential in a summer program at West Shore Community College and will return there this winter to begin studies to earn a degree in general teaching. Interestingly, Sidney's husband Jaime plans to apply for a future CYD cohort to pursue a degree in Controls/Automation Technology. He had to postpone his participation when he accepted a new employment position this summer.

"My children are a bit older now and I have more time to focus on my goals."



GIVE TODAY or Leave a Gift for Tomorrow

The Community Foundation for Oceana County

leads the philanthropic environment of the area, inspiring contributions from donors, delivering exceptional service and being an active participant in seeking solutions to real-life problems. We work to create a place whereby our citizens live and thrive in a vibrant community with abundant resources. We are home to nearly 190 funds. You can give today, or plan to leave a gift in the future, in any amount, to any of our existing funds. Or, with a gift of \$5,000 (\$10,000 for scholarships), you can start a named fund of your own. We'll be happy to help you choose the option that's best for you. Refer to our website under GIVE tab for more information or give us a call to discuss your charitable goals.

UNRESTRICTED

Addresses the opportunities and challenges within Oceana. As the community changes, so will the projects that your fund supports. These powerful funds allow the Foundation to respond swiftly to critical needs and provide leadership to community initiatives.

- Robert & Rose Haase Fund
- Julie & John Stivers Fund
- Community Investment Fund

DONOR ADVISED

Convenient, flexible tools for individuals, families, businesses, or groups that want to be actively involved in suggesting where community investments are made.

Non-endowed above \$5,000 minimum to establish fund – put your philanthropy to work right away.

- Dave & Kim Beckman Family Fund
- Bob & Wilma Beckman Love Your Neighbor Fund
- Bluhm-Lockwood Memorial Fund
- Robin Bradley Memorial Fund
- Jessica Lauren Bruce Fund for Bipolar Research Cancer and Critical Care Fund
- Carnes Family Interlochen Center for the Arts Fund
- Claycomb Family Memorial Fund
- Elaine & Lee Curtis Fund
- Electric Forest Charitable Fund
- Janie Denman Legacy Fund
- Wayne Elhart Be Nice Memorial Fund - Oceana
- Henry & Dorothy V. Fischer Family Fund
- Marge & Doug Gregg Fund
- Happy Farmers Art of Living Fund
- William Field Hart-Montague Trail Fund
- Todd & Kellie Fox Family Fund
- Jim Frank Memorial Fund
- Hart Rotary Club Fund
- Curtiss & Elizabeth Helgren Charitable Fund
- Dr. James R. Hines Shelby Community Improvement Rotary Club Fund
- Kimmel Family Fund
- Edward and Evelyn Kolbe Fund
- LaBarge-Beeber Family Fund
- Lake-Osceola State Bank Fund
- William R. Lathers Foundation
- David P. Markiewicz Memorial Fund
- Gerald and Florence Meyers Fund
- Miller Charitable Fund
- Dan and Laura Muirhead Fund
- Mrs. Mullen's Closet Fund
- Col. Joe & Rilla Nameth Fund
- Neighbor to Neighbor Fund
- Friends of Oceana County Sheriff Office Fund
- Ordoobadi Family Fund
- Gail Paulus Family Fund
- Pentwater Service Club Fund
- Peterson-Carey Family Fund
- Mary Ann Peterson "Grandma Pete" Memorial Fund
- Peterson Farms Fund
- Raffaelli Family Fund
- Ralph's Kids Fund
- Mary R. Sanford Memorial Fund
- Allan E. & Betty J. Seyfred Family Fund
- Paul & Ann Schmiedeknecht Camp Fund

- Shelby Optimists Club Fund
- Shelby Rotary Club Fund
- Shelby State Bank Fund
- SLSJ Jeep Invasion Fund
- Sobecki Family Memorial Fund
- Zack Snider Agricultural Memorial Fund
- Sparks/Ryan Memorial Fund
- Patrick Steen Helping Hand Fund
- Mark and Jan Trommater Family Fund
- James H. and Ann M. VanTassel II Family Fund
- Randall and Linda Wagner Family Fund
- Richard & Ryan Walsworth Memorial Fund
- Warren G. White Memorial Fund
- Wilson Family Little Point Sable Fund
- Malcolm "Pete" Wood Memorial Fund

DESIGNATED

Supports your favorite causes that made a significant impact on your life – church, school, nonprofit where you volunteered – you continue to support these organizations even when you're gone.

- Crystal Valley Care Fund
- James J. Farkas St. John's Catholic Church Cemetery Maintenance Fund
- George Wilber and Edna Hansen Endowment Fund
- Betty L. Johnston Family Fund
- William R. Lathers Golden Township Fund
- William W. Moyer Flower Creek Cemetery Fund
- William W. Moyer Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society Fund
- Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum Trust Fund
- Robert J. Olendorf Memorial Fund
- Pentwater Red Barn Preservation Fund
- Roy's Kids Fund
- Shelby Area District Library - Paul and Katherine "Kate" Lound Fund
- Trinity Lutheran Community Food Pantry
- Connie E. Bailey Memorial Fund
- John and Kay Vrbanac Fund

ORGANIZATION ENDOWMENT

Typically started by a nonprofit (or a passionate donor/volunteer) to build endowment for their own organization. We manage the endowments of more than 25 Oceana nonprofits, who receive regular grant distributions from their fund, while saving for the future.

- COVE Oceana Endowment Fund
- Gene and Barb Davidson Pentwater Artisan Learning Center Fund
- Elbridge Community Church Endowment Fund
- Fountain Hill Center Lakeshore Office Fund
- Habitat for Humanity - Oceana County Fund
- Harbor House of Hart Fund
- Hart Area Public Library Fund
- Hart Community Performing Arts Association Fund
- Hesperia Community Library Endowment Fund
- Oceana Hispanic Center Fund
- Lakeshore Community Hospital Endowment Fund
- LASSI Fund
- Love INC of Oceana County Fund
- New Era Christian School Educational Support Services Fund

- New Era Christian School Endowment Fund
- Oceana County Council on Aging
- Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society
- Oceana County Medical Care Facility Fund
- Oceana Christian School Education Fund
- OCEANA'S HOME Partnership/Channel Housing Ministries Fund
- Pentwater Township Library Fund
- Pentwater Historical Society Fund
- Shelby Area District Library-Caroline "Kelly" Hansen Morse Memorial Fund
- St. Michael School, Brunswick, Education Fund
- Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund
- United Way of the Lakeshore Oceana County Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST

Supports any broad areas of interest you choose (arts, education, youth, community beautification etc.). Tell us what aspects of the community you care most about, and we'll make grants from your fund to advance work being done in that field.

- Little Point Sable - Arts for Oceana County Fund
- Child Neglect and Abuse Prevention Fund
- Joe Foster Junior Golf Fund
- Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund
- R.P. & M.J. Henry Family Fund
- Homeless Prevention Endowment Fund
- Eugene Kuhne Fund
- Nobles Family Medical Reserve Corps Fund
- Oceana College Access Sustainability Fund
- Oceana County Parks & Trails Fund
- Oceana Youth Fund
- Urgent Needs Fund

OPERATING

Supports and sustains the work of the Foundation and leadership activities

- Oceana Foundation Administrative Fund
- Oceana County Community Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP

Help support students continuing their education, earning a credential or adult learners returning to education. Establish guidelines for eligibility, or you can leave it to us to determine where your award will fill the greatest community need and make the most impact.

- Clancy Aerts Skilled Trades & Healthcare Scholarship
- Oceana Aviators Scholarship
- Steve Boutell Memorial Scholarship
- Sharon Bowen Memorial Scholarship
- Boy Scout Camp Scholarship
- Robin Bradley Memorial Scholarship
- John Bush III Memorial Scholarship
- Elaine & Lee Curtis Scholarship
- Emily Dykstra & Aunt Catherine Lound Scholarship
- Complete Your Degree Program
- Jordan Evans Memorial Scholarship
- Ruth & Frans Feuerstein Scholarship
- Melissa S. Fralic Scholarship
- Robert J. Gebhart Memorial Scholarship
- Gerald "Bud" & Judy Greiner Agricultural Scholarship
- Hager-Lacey Memorial Scholarship
- Collin Hansen Skilled Trades Scholarship
- Hart Public Schools Foundation Scholarship

- Hart Rotary Club Scholarship
- Hart Lions Memorial Scholarship
- Hart Public Schools Robert E. Diman Scholarship
- Helen Hutt Scholarship
- Edwin Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- Kirk Music & Education
- Michael W. Malburg Sr. Memorial Scholarship
- Gerald L. Malburg Scholarship
- Oceana/Mason MSU Alumni Scholarship
- Clarence Metzler Memorial Hart Band Scholarship
- Ruth Jean Oomen Nursing Scholarship
- Parrington/Heyde Scholarship
- Dean Patrick Scholarship
- Pentwater Public Schools
- Ryan Scott Prudhomme Memorial Scholarship
- Terry & Pam Roach Cancer Survivor Scholarship
- Lucas Rosalez Memorial Scholarship
- Joan & David Roseman Medical Scholarship
- Barry Ross Scholarship
- Christopher Schaner Memorial Scholarship
- Thomas Schaner Memorial Scholarship
- Shelby Public Schools Foundation Scholarship
- Shelby Rotary Club Scholarship
- Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
- Mereta Ann Spidler Scholarship
- Seth J. Spidler & Margaret Schaner Spidler Scholarship
- Bert Stevens Memorial Scholarship
- Richard and Carole Tompkins Scholarship
- Lisa Veltman Scholarship
- Larry Wagner Appletree Automotive Skilled Trades Scholarship
- Walkerville Public Schools
- Joseph P. Warmbier Scholarship
- Janet A. Wessel Scholarship
- US Marine Brett Witteveen Memorial Scholarship

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Created by groups who partner with us for help with administration of a specific program, capital campaign, or community project (non-endowed).

- Capacity Building Fund
- Getty Park Renovation Fund
- Oceana Can! Operating Fund
- Oceana Conservation District Land Preservation Fund
- Oceana County Fair Grandstand & Fairgrounds Renovation Fund
- Oceana Read Early, Read Often Fund
- Pentwater Beautification Fund
- Protect Pentwater Harbor Campaign Services Fund
- Pentwater-Hart Bike Trail Fund
- Pentwater Historical Society Building Expansion Fund
- Shelby Township Community Park Fund

BUILD A FUND

Any of these funds can begin as a Build A Fund with the goal of reaching the fund minimum within a few years. Once the balance is met, we'll work with you to convert the fund into the type you desire, and grantmaking can begin.

- Flora, Fauna & Friends Build a Fund
- Mrs. Kronlein Reading Fund
- Ladder Community Center Build a Fund
- Lake Michigan Camp Harvey Weaver Preservation Build a Fund
- Colleen Plummer Acts of Kindness Build a Fund
- Chuck Schultz Public Safety Scholarship Build a Fund

Leave a Legacy

The Legacy Society recognizes individuals and couples who have named the Community Foundation for Oceana County as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift. We are pleased to publicly recognize the people who are planning gifts. Please consider letting us know your intent so we can add your name to our Legacy Society display, website and annual report. Public awareness of your generous action might encourage a friend or neighbor to do so as well.

Our Legacy Society Members are listed below. Consider joining them today!

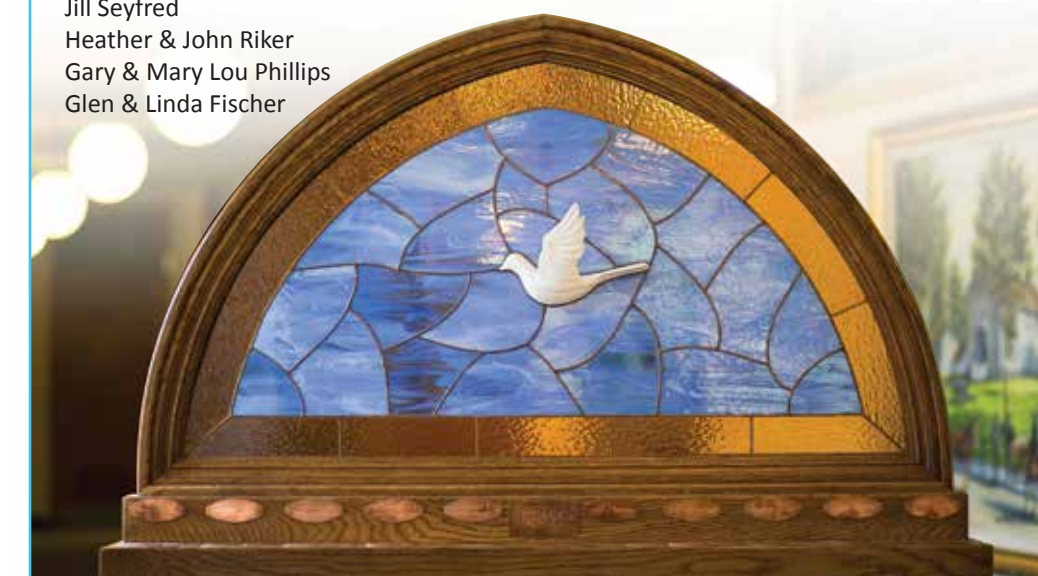
LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Anonymous (5)
- Roger & Karen Kirk
- Anthony & Kareen Monton
- Franciscus C. & Ruth A. Feuerstein
- Tammy S. & Sean P. Carey
- Nancy Sterk
- Walter & Karen Urick
- Marge Peterson
- Gerald & Florence Meyers
- Rev. Dr. Richard & Mary Sue Carnes
- Joan Sparks Ryan
- Joan Lound
- Karen Hammann
- Darrell & Mary Lou Huggins
- Cliff & Ellen Prince
- Bluhm-Lockwood Memorial Trust - William & Gail Bluhm
- Amy LaBarge & Ronald Beeber
- Lee & Elaine Curtis
- David & Joan Roseman
- Jean E. Russell & Bob Childers
- Robert & Theresa Steen
- Everett E. & Barbara J. Davidson
- Joan & Pete LundBorg
- Richard & Carole Tompkins
- Paul & Joyce Anderson
- Marge & Doug Gregg
- Garry & Julie McKeen
- Peter F. Hiddema
- Bob & Joyce Veltman
- Mary J. Smith
- John & Julie Stivers
- David Nobles
- Bob & Marilyn Henry
- Curt & Elizabeth Helgren
- Randall & Linda Wagner
- Jill Seyfred
- Heather & John Riker
- Gary & Mary Lou Phillips
- Glen & Linda Fischer

BEQUEST GIFTS

- Julia Hager
- Eugene Kuhne
- Bessie E. & Dr. Ethan Allen Gray
- Joseph P. Warmbier
- Jesse Gillett
- Helen Hutt
- Clara Stevens
- Rush Esther Shull
- Dr. John J. & Kay J. Vrbanac
- Robert E. Diman
- George Wilber & Edna Mae Hansen
- William R. Lathers
- Vern & Florence Martin
- Sheila M. O'Brien
- James J. Farkas
- Robert & Rose Haase
- Dr. Janet Wessel
- William W. Moyer
- Mereta Spidler

We are exceedingly grateful for the beautiful Legacy Society recognition display, named "Peace", designed by the late Gene Davidson and built in collaboration with other Pentwater Artisan Center members. We proudly house this unique piece in our Foundation office, along with a grouping of reception furniture also designed by Gene. He leaves a legacy of furniture, art, boats, signs, buildings and more sprinkled across the county.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR OCEANA COUNTY

PO Box 902, 388 S Hancock St.

Pentwater, MI 49449



LEADERSHIP LEARNING LAB

The next generation of leaders can come from anywhere – a philosophy that drives the Foundation’s support of Rotary Charities’ Leadership Learning Lab (LLL).

Together with NorthSky Nonprofit Network and the Frey Foundation, ten northern Michigan foundations and local leaders established LLL to empower emerging community leaders with the tools and resources needed to thrive. The Oceana Community Foundation recognized the potential of investing in the capacity of local nonprofit leadership. Since joining in 2018, the Foundation has sponsored 26 Oceana leaders through its Administrative Fund as a leadership initiative. The fourth cohort of LLL participants is its largest yet, inviting nine passionate leaders to strengthen their skills.

Nearly all (98%) of LLL participants noted that the Lab is increasing their self-awareness and resiliency as leaders. Another focus of the Lab is building awareness of equity as a guiding principle in leadership – with over three-fourths becoming more attentive to the dynamic between power, identity, and equity.

The Lab helps participants to become a more adaptive leader and to take the time to learn, practice, and experiment with new skills. The Lab hosts monthly workshops at five regional sites, with Oceana and

Manistee leaders together at the Lakeshore Resource Center in Ludington. Providing a trusted space for rising nonprofit leaders to develop their talents and a plan for the impact they wish to make within their local communities is invaluable.

The Lab is an investment into planting the seeds of open communication and support between different organizations, not only between the nonprofit leaders but also amongst the participating foundations. Its impact is derived from the variety of local leaders and organizations involved, encouraging diverse thought and partnership across our county.

Current participants represent the following organizations: Hart-Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce, TrueNorth Services, West Michigan Migrant Resource Council, Peterson Farms, District Health Department #10, Fountain Hill Center for Counseling, Hart Area Public Library and Pentwater Historical Society.

The Foundation will introduce its fifth cohort in the fall of 2023 and encourage local leaders from nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, and community groups to join. The Lab is a year-long program of informational sessions, group meetings, and dialogue to build inter-organizational synergy.

Nearly all (98%) of LLL participants noted that the Lab is increasing their self-awareness and resiliency as leaders.

