

WHO CARES ABOUT OCEANA COUNTY?

An update from your Community Foundation
for **Oceana County**

Little Sable Point Light

Photo courtesy of Louise Olson

YOU DO.



2013 Update

Big moments happen when we all care together. We see it when organizations collaborate and private and public resources combine to create common good. We hear of it when friends and neighbors rally to help someone in need. But above all, we feel it through your generosity.

We care too – deeply. For 25 years. Since 1989, the Community Foundation has put your gifts to work and accomplished those big moments. Together.

But let's not talk about the past – let's all think about the next 25 years. Your caring is the spark that creates impact, ignites ideas, completes projects, preserves community assets. Inside, we highlight just a few of 2013's donors and stories of caring. Visit www.oceana-foundation.org for every detail and follow our Facebook page to keep up on all the little moments too.

With love for Oceana County,

Tammy Carey
Executive Director



Bill Bluhm
Chair, Board of Directors

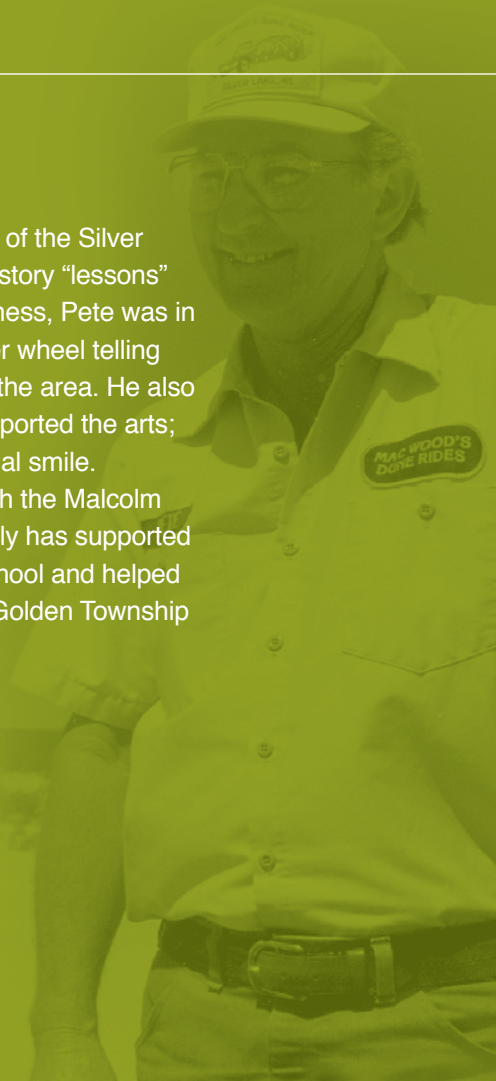


Making connections.

Some Donors know exactly what they want to support through their Donor Advised Funds; others like to talk to us, hear some ideas, and gather some research. Area nonprofits and community leaders come to us to share their needs and projects. The Community Foundation is a connector ... in this update you'll learn just a few ways we've all worked together to care for our community this past year.

A natural steward.

The Wood family has been a steward of the Silver Lake Sand Dunes, offering fun and history “lessons” since 1930. Raised in the family business, Pete was in his natural element behind the scooter wheel telling tall tales & showcasing the beauty of the area. He also loved to play his grand piano and supported the arts; he lived life with humor and a perpetual smile. Keeping those memories alive through the Malcolm “Pete” Wood Memorial Fund, his family has supported new band equipment at Hart High School and helped to build the new picnic shelter at the Golden Township Park at the Silver Lake Sand Dunes.





PETE DID.

Pete & Bev Wood

**BILL &
GAIL DO.**



Foundation leadership.

In 1970 Bill & Gail Bluhm came to Oceana for Bill's new position as Pentwater Public Schools superintendent. With two small children in tow they were taken aback by the wonder of living in a small town near Lake Michigan. His position exposed him to the needs of the community, which sparked the idea of a Foundation. In 1989 Bill, along with other community leaders, became founding trustees to the Community Foundation *for* Oceana County – the first affiliate foundation in the state of Michigan.

Bill and Gail gave careful thought on where to designate their Legacy gift to the Foundation, eventually deciding to direct it to the operational fund. "Foundation leadership activities rely on consistent funding support. We are so proud to be part of this great organization," Bill said.

Create your legacy, never stop caring.

We know that seven out of ten people are generous during their lifetime. Yet only one in ten keeps giving through an estate gift. We can help define and ensure your legacy with a gift to the Foundation. Over 40 people have left bequest gifts or told us that their legacy included the Community Foundation - ensuring their love for this community would never cease.

Since Oceana County has been important to you, make part of your legacy a gift to help ensure its future. If you already named the Foundation, let us know. We want to recognize your generosity with a plaque on our Legacy Society recognition display.



An incredible year.

Our role is to be the place where you can create the community you want to live in. We talk with you, get to know who you are and what you care about.

You cared big.

Because you cared, 2013 was another record-breaking year!

Here are a few of the financial highlights:

- | **\$488,472** in gifts and grants received
- | **17** named funds created for a total of **103**
- | **185** grants awarded totaling **\$274,712**
- | **144** scholarships awarded totaling **\$148,100**
- | **314** new donors
- | **\$8,240,140** in total assets
- | **12.35%** investment return

OUR FUTURE DOES



Pentwater Historical Society Museum Grand Opening, celebrating the successful purchase of the Pentwater Baptist Church building & museum opening

(photo courtesy of Oceana's Herald-Journal)





THEY DO.

Theresa & Bob Steen



A helping hand.

The Patrick Steen Helping Hand Fund was created by Bob & Theresa Steen in memory of all the joyous moments shared with their son. A very talented and energetic young man, he pursued many interests, especially music and computers – obtaining a BS in computer networking from Ferris State University. Patrick had a positive impact on people all around him – family, friends, and even teachers.

The shadows of depression began to emerge during his high school years and he struggled until he took his own life at the age of 30. Bob & Theresa want to offer hope to other young people who are pursuing their dreams – never stop dreaming, there is always hope!

Patrick Steen

Caring for one another.

Since 1992 the Crystal Valley Care Fund has quietly raised funds to “love” Oceana families facing catastrophic hardships – house fires, life-threatening illnesses and other life-stopping moments. The Care Fund operates completely by volunteer help and has aided over 860 families in the past 6 years alone. In an effort to increase their long-term organization strength, an anonymous donor established a Foundation Fund and put up a challenge match for up to \$25,000. In just one month, Oceana responded and the match was met.

Patrick Fuller established the Cancer and Critical Care Fund to financially assist area residents with the expenses associated with cancer or a critical illness, which can often seem unbearable and devastating to families. “It is common for people to think it will never happen to them, but the harsh reality is that most people have a personal experience with a loved one’s health crisis. We desire to be a source of help,” Pat said.



Our 100th fund holder.

Meet Betty L. Johnston - born in Carr Settlement, located in the SE corner of Mason County near Walkerville. She enjoys genealogy research, collecting vintage buttons and living amongst her many treasures of yesteryear. After establishing an endowment fund in Lake County to create a genealogy research room, she discovered the Oceana Historical Society headquarters in Hart. While visiting she stopped by the Hart Historic District, and as a longtime doll collector and doll house builder herself, she was delighted by the animated doll display.

Impressed by both organizations, Betty decided to establish an endowment fund at the Oceana Foundation to support their work. To add to the fun she signed her fund agreement on her 80th birthday. That's history in the making!

SHE DOES



Serving the vulnerable.

Looking for proof of community caring? Look no further than the establishment of the Harbor House of Hart, a new foster home facility for teen girls who have experienced abuse & neglect. Through a Foundation Campaign Fund, money was quickly raised to purchase a home well-suited for a foster facility and the doors were recently opened to several young women.

New Foundation partnerships with the Oceana County Medical Care Facility and the Oceana County Council on Aging have just begun to raise funds for improving elder care.

With a growing list of over 100 funds, our donors and the community continue to help meet the needs of the entire community.

Dreams can happen.

Shelby businessman William Field dreamed of creating a bike trail on the former Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad property. He acquired the property and gave it to the City of Hart in 1984. Hart and other agencies cooperated with the Michigan DNR to construct the scenic trail – the first paved trail in Michigan – setting a high bar for other trails.

After 25 years, the Trail's riding surface has deteriorated and needs to be reconstructed. A group of community trail enthusiasts initiated a campaign fund at the Foundation to meet the local funding challenge. Thanks to a collaboration of funding sources from MDOT, DNR, state and local government, foundations and support from community donors, \$4.4 million was raised to preserve this important community asset.

Recognizing that maintenance on the existing trail fell off and contributed to its decline, fundraising efforts are shifting towards developing a fund for long-term trail maintenance. Dreams do happen – we happily invite you to ride the new William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Rail Trail in 2015.



WE ALL DO.

Tunnel of Trees, north of Shelby

Photo courtesy of Michigan Trails Magazine



LOVE YOUR HOME.

Serving Oceana County as an Affiliate of the
Community Foundation for Muskegon County
425 W. Western Ave., Ste. 200 | Muskegon, MI 49440

If everyone leaves 5% (or more) of their estate to a Foundation fund, over \$111 million would be invested in Oceana County over the next 50 years!

Give to an existing fund or create a new one. Tell us what is important to you and we can help make it happen.

Community Foundation for Oceana County | (231) 861-8335
Giving is easy online at www.oceana-foundation.org



For good. For ever.

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