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“The Great Give” Significantly Supports Local Non-Profits

THANK YOU! Hillsdale County donors made the Hillsdale County Community Foundation's Great Give an extraordinary success. Together, we showed how powerful philanthropy can be. Community supporters came out in force, acting as financial champions for eight local non-profit organizations. More than \$133,000 was leveraged, including public donations of over \$113,000 and bonus pool funds from the Community Foundation totaling \$20,500.



The HCCF sponsored a Giving Day event aimed at encouraging all of Hillsdale County to give to local non-profits on November 28, which was also recognized as Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global day dedicated to giving back. Families, individuals, and businesses came together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. The spirit of philanthropy was widely demonstrated and celebrated in Hillsdale County.

During the Great Give many people made donations to eight local nonprofits, many of them providing critical assistance with local needs. There were opportunities for agencies to receive both random and assigned prizes and funds from the bonus pool. Online gifts were welcomed using the HCCF website, www.abouthccf.org, and walk-in gifts were accepted at the HCCF office throughout the day. In total, 1273 contributions were received during the Great Give.

The area non-profits that were directly involved in the Great Give are as follows: **CONTINUED ON 2**

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2017 Hillsdale County College Fair

ON OCTOBER 16, 75 colleges and universities from the tri-state area and representatives from the armed forces and community organizations were on hand at the Margo V. Beirmann Athletic Center on the campus of Hillsdale College. Beginning at 6:00 pm, college-bound individuals had the chance to speak with and receive information from the attending representatives. 323 students, as well as parents, attended the 11th Annual Hillsdale County College Fair.

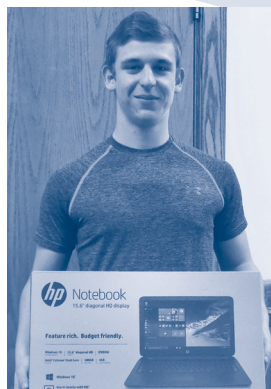


The College Fair was also the first opportunity for those interested in scholarships administered by the Foundation to acquire the 2018 Scholarship Book and application information. The Scholarship Book outlines all available scholarships and their respective application and eligibility requirements. The Foundation currently holds over 100 scholarship funds from which students can apply for assistance. In 2017, the Foundation awarded scholarships valued at \$160,000 to area students to assist with their educational endeavors.

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College Application Month

MICHIGAN College Application Month encourages students to take a significant step toward college by providing assistance and creating enthusiasm during the application process for post-secondary education. Several Hillsdale County schools recently took part in the statewide College Application Month by working to guide seniors through the application process. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation provided a laptop computer as a prize for those seniors filling out applications, which was won by Mason Mitchell from Pittsford High School.



*Mason Mitchell, 2017
College Application
Month Laptop Winner*

Recent Grant Awards

THE HILLSDALE County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of two recent grant cycles. A total of \$84,409.44 has been awarded to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit Hillsdale County residents. The following organizations were awarded funding through the Community Investment Fund:

- Hillsdale Community Library, \$4,502.44 for early literacy support;
- Amboy Township, \$10,011 for Lake Diane shelter house safety items;
- Camden-Frontier Schools, \$4,000 for repair of high school band instruments;
- Hillsdale Community Schools, \$10,000 to support the high school robotics program;
- Hillsdale County Agricultural Society, \$4,493 for display materials for the Hillsdale County Fair Museum and Centennial Farm Display;
- City of Hillsdale, \$9,134 for a storage building at the Fields of Dreams;
- Salvation Army, \$7,500 for the Fresh Food Initiative;
- Domestic Harmony, \$3,000 for a new phone system; and
- Area food pantries (King's Kupboard, Lifeline, Litchfield United

Methodist Church, Salvation Army, and Waldron First Church of Christ), \$2,500 (\$500 each) in proactive grant funding to support the pantries' services to the community.

The HCCF also awarded grant funding to several local nonprofits as part of a special capacity-building grant cycle. These grants were available to nonprofits who participated in trainings offered by the Foundation in 2017, focused on increasing the strength and sustainability of 501(c)(3) organizations. The following organizations were awarded funding for various capacity-building projects through the Simpson Family Fund:

- Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness, \$5,750;
- Domestic Harmony, \$6,000;
- Friends of the Mitchell Research Center, \$1,200;
- Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, \$6,000;
- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$3,000;
- Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, \$569;
- Hospice of Hillsdale County, \$4,750; and
- St. Peter's Free Clinic, \$2,000.

Welcome New YOUTH Members

FIVE new members have joined the HCCF YOUTH committee this year. They include (from left to right): Mya Estel, North Adams-Jerome; Grace Emens, Waldron; Kimball Hughes, Pittsford; and Gavin Zimmerman, Litchfield. Carson Laney, Jonesville, is not pictured.



HCCF Recognizes Previous Board Members

THE Community Foundation would like to thank Tim Raker and Jim Whitehill for their commitment and dedication with service on our Board of Trustees. Your time and efforts are appreciated!



Jim Whitehill and Tim Raker

GREAT GIVE CONT. FROM 1

CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness), Community Action Agency, Domestic Harmony, the Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Hillsdale CASA Inc., Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, Hospice of Hillsdale County, and St. Peter's Free Clinic. The HCCF sincerely thanks the community supporters who aided in furthering the mission of these organizations while maximizing the impact of their contributions during the Great Give event.

Love Your Community Grant Program

IN JANUARY, applicants submitted project ideas for the "Love Your Community" grant program. Finalists will potentially receive up to \$2,000 to implement their project. The Love Your Community grants support projects and programs aimed at enhancing and engaging communities that demonstrate creativity and innovation and do not duplicate services or programs already in place. The Love Your Community program is open to any applicant with an idea, a plan, and a desire to make their community a better place. The finalists' projects promote community improvement, interaction, or engagement.

The HCCF Grant Committee reviews all Love Your Community submissions, and the finalists are posted on the Foundation's facebook page in mid-March. The largest factor in the grant award decision-making will be the support that each proposal receives via facebook likes recorded directly from the HCCF page March 12 – 26 (not from the applicant's personal or organizational pages). HCCF will also evaluate each proposal for feasibility, plan for execution, clear communication of goals and expected outcomes, and realistic budget.

The winning grant proposals will be announced at a community reception beginning at 5:30 pm on April 12th, which will be open to the public. The reception will be held at the HCCF offices, and refreshments will be provided. All finalists will be invited to prepare a display, outlining their proposed project. The goal of the event is to generate excitement and support for our friends and neighbors who have a vision to improve the world around us, whether it's the single block of a neighborhood or an entire city, village, or township. For more information, please visit the HCCF facebook page.

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COLLEGE FAIR CONT. FROM 1

Along with the Foundation, the event was sponsored by Condon, Hecht, Bisher, Wade & Co., Gem Asset Management, Hillsdale College, and County National Bank.



Make your voice heard -
VOTE!

STEP 1:



Review the "Love Your Community" ideas. Finalists will be promoted on the Hillsdale County Community Foundation facebook page.

STEP 2:



Visit the HCCF facebook page between March 12-26 to "like" your favorite idea for a community improvement or engagement project.

STEP 3:



Join the HCCF at a community reception honoring all finalists and announcing grant award winners.

Please join us!

Thursday, April 12
5:30 pm
at the HCCF office
2 S. Howell Street
downtown Hillsdale

HCCF Welcomes New Board Members



Chuck North



Maxine Vanlerberg

HCCF IS honored to have two dedicated community leaders join us as the newest members of our Board of Trustees.

Chuck North joins us from the Reading area. Chuck, whose hobbies and interests include health and fitness, family time, reading, and traveling, is the Superintendent of Reading Community Schools. Chuck has been at Reading Community Schools since 1992, having served in several positions and leadership roles since his graduation from Central Michigan University. Chuck and his wife Julie have one daughter.

Maxine Vanlerberg is a lifelong resident of Hillsdale County. Her career has included 25 years in private manufacturing, six years as a Hillsdale County Commissioner and 10 years as the Hillsdale County Director of the Community Action Agency. Maxine and her husband Bob have two sons, six grandsons, one granddaughter and two great grandsons. Maxine and Bob enjoy traveling all over the United States and the world. Maxine's hobbies and interests include spending time with family, reading, sewing, scrapbooking, and card making.

HCCF is pleased to have these talented and dedicated members of the community on board.

Annual Report Correction

Following the publication of the 2017 HCCF annual report, it was discovered that the calendar dates for December 25-31 are incorrect. Please accept our sincerest apologies for this oversight.



Hillsdale County

community foundation

P.O. Box 276
2 South Howell Street
Hillsdale, MI 49242
517.439.5101 **PHONE**
517.439.5109 **FAX**
info@abouthccf.org **EMAIL**
www.abouthccf.org **WEB**

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MEET THE STAFF

Sharon Bisher, PRESIDENT/CEO s.bisher@abouthccf.org
Susan Stout, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS s.stout@abouthccf.org
Amber Yoder, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT . . a.yoder@abouthccf.org

We invite you to share your thoughts about the Foundation with any of our knowledgeable and helpful staff. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time!

HCCF YOUTH Kick Off #iwontbesilent Campaign

IN OCTOBER, the HCCF YOUTH sponsored a Hillsdale County Suicide Prevention and Awareness presentation at the George Roche Sports Complex on the campus of Hillsdale College. This presentation was tailored specifically for high school students, and around 1,700 students from 10 Hillsdale County schools were in attendance.

Our local data shows a rise in the number of young people thinking about, planning and attempting suicide. This is a devastating issue that must be addressed and we feel that now is the time to bring awareness and provide practical solutions to this trend.

The Foundation secured Mr. Mike Veny, a national speaker, for this event. Mr. Veny's presentation focused on the variables that lead to suicide such as depression, bullying, self-esteem, etc. The program offered hope for students struggling with mental health challenges, behavioral health challenges, and self-destructive behavior.



The HCCF YOUTH are proud to be a part of the #iwontbesilent campaign, encouraging young people to talk to someone if they are struggling with anxiety, depression, extreme stress, or bullying.



Speaker Mike Veny, encourages students to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health challenges.

The presentation kicked off a year-long #iwontbesilent campaign, creating peer-to-peer support for area students in participating schools. The HCCF is working with guidance counselors to create and train peer-to-peer teams to identify warning signs and potential resources; HCCF, school counselors, and HCCF YOUTH worked to identify groups in participating schools to lead this campaign.