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## Four Educators Receive Teacher of the Year Honors

**THE STANTON** Foundation and the Hillsdale County Community Foundation announced the winners of the 2019 Hillsdale County Teacher of the Year awards at a reception on June 4. The event honored two winners and recognized two teachers who received honorable mentions. Brad Felix, Hillsdale Community Schools Algebra II teacher, was honored as the first place winner receiving a cash prize of \$15,000. David Boswell, Hillsdale Community Schools vocal music teacher, received the 2nd place honor and a cash prize of \$7,500. In addition, two teachers were chosen as honorable mentions also receiving a monetary prize of \$1,000. The recipients this year were Charlayne McClanahan, Reynolds Elementary Reading teacher, and Amanda Waidely, Hillsdale Community Schools English teacher. The purpose of this award is to honor the “best of the best” teachers with gratitude and to recognize educators in Hillsdale County who go above and beyond for their students and community. **CONTINUED ON 3**



*The HCCF was honored to present Teacher of the Year Awards on behalf of the Stantons. The Stanton Foundation is the proud sponsor of the event, created to honor those who have a most profound effect on young people and who greatly influence the leaders of tomorrow. Pictured (l to r) are: Sheila Stanton (The Stanton Foundation), Sharon Bisher (HCCF CEO/ President) and Brad Felix (Hillsdale Community Schools).*

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## HCCF Announces New Funds

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation is continuing its commitment to promote philanthropy and meet the needs of the people of Hillsdale County with the introduction of ten new funds. The mission of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation is to receive and administer funds for artistic, charitable, educational and scientific purposes for the residents of Hillsdale County, and the Foundation is proud to announce the following funds:

- John and Cathy Harley Family Scholarship Fund will provide an annual scholarship to a current or former graduate of either Hudson High School or Jonesville High School. Preference will be given to those students pursuing a degree in the area of agriculture or education.
- Share the Warmth of Hillsdale County Fund provides financial support to the operations of the Share the Warmth coalition and their efforts to provide a warming center for the homeless individuals in Hillsdale County.
- Isaiah 54:2 Fund will provide financial support to a project or organization in Hillsdale County as selected by the donor each year.
- Taylor Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide an annual scholarship **CONTINUED ON 5**

## 2019 YOUTH Graduates

**FOUR YOUTH** members graduated from high school this year and will be pursuing their individual goals and dreams. We extend our thanks for their service, and wish them the best of luck as they move forward.



*Ellie Ackerson,  
Jonesville—  
Oakland University,  
Pre-Med*



*Hannah Neukom,  
Hillsdale Academy—  
Hillsdale College,  
Pre-Med*



*Anna Baker,  
Waldron—  
Michigan State U.,  
Environmental Science  
And Sustainability*



*Joseph Weidmayer,  
Reading—  
Washtenaw  
Community College,  
Carpentry*

## HCCF YOUTH Announce Recent Grant Awards

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the most recent YOUTH (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) spring grant cycle. \$56,343 has been awarded to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit young people in Hillsdale County.

- Hillsdale Community Schools Summer Back Pack Program, awarded \$12,500 for food packs, reusable grocery bags and hygiene products to last the entire summer for students in need
- Hillsdale High School, \$1,100 for their Freshmen Mentor Program that aims to smooth the transition from middle school to high school expenses
- Hillsdale High School, awarded \$1,500 for the purchase of auditorium risers for their K-12 music programs, allowing the choirs to present and perform concerts
- Hillsdale High School Marching Band, awarded \$8,750 for their new drumline and equipment

- Jonesville Interact Club, \$870 for Party in the Park expenses
- Jonesville FFA, awarded \$2,000 for the update of the Jonesville Community Garden to serve the food pantries in Hillsdale County
- Camp Michindoh was awarded \$5,000 for construction of the High Adventure Experiential Learning Project that includes a multi-level high-ropes challenge course designed to promote self-development for participants
- Pittsford Bands/Pittsford Music Boosters, awarded \$3,550 to purchase Musser Chimes for the band program
- Salem Mennonite Church Youth Group was awarded \$12,641 for their community outdoor athletics center that will benefit the families and youth in the area. Their development includes a soccer field, football field, volleyball court and a baseball/kickball field
- Will Carleton Academy, awarded \$2,622 for their outdoor physical education enhancement with the addition of a sand volleyball pit

## 2019 HCCF Scholarship Information

### THE COMMUNITY

Foundation received around 2,000 applications for 118 different scholarships, and we have awarded over \$222,095 in scholarships this year. With so many great applications it is very challenging to make award decisions, and we would like to thank the hundreds of community members who volunteer their time to sit on our various scholarship selection committees. We also extend our appreciation to our donors, who make gifts such as these possible through their dedication and support.

- Pittsford Area School, \$1,400 to install a new drinking foundation with a water bottle filling station
- North Adams- Jerome Robotics team was awarded \$1,500 to use towards competition fees and purchasing new materials
- Reading Community Schools, awarded \$1,500 for financial support for three school programs/clubs: RHS Drama Club, After School Art Club and RHS Future Corps
- Community Actions Agency, awarded \$500 for advertising and marketing promoting their Diaper Drive
- Reading Community Schools, awarded \$495 to purchase tickets for the RHS choir to perform the National Anthem at a Detroit Tiger Game
- Montgomery Fire Department, awarded \$415 for supplies needed to fill backpacks for area students

# HCCF Field of Interest Fund Grant Awards

**\$13,181.91** was awarded from a number of funds administered by the Foundation to area non-profit organizations for targeted projects or programs to benefit county residents.

The following organizations were awarded funding through the George W. Romney Endowment Fund for volunteer activities:

- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$2,500 for a volunteer appreciation dinner
- Hillsdale County Agricultural Society, \$2,000 for a volunteer appreciation dinner
- Hospice of Hillsdale County, \$700 for volunteer appreciation gift cards

Several area libraries also received funding from the Benge Library Fund and the Louise Hawkes Library Fund:

- Camden Township Library, \$300 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars

- Jonesville District Library, \$495 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars
- Litchfield District Library, \$476.72 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars
- North Adams Community Memorial Library, \$575.45 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars
- Pittsford Public Library, \$1,000 - \$500 for adult audio books and \$500 for large print books
- Reading Community Library, \$390.74 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars
- Waldron District Library, \$350 for the summer reading program—A Universe of Stars

Three organizations received funding from the Healthy Senior/Healthy Youth Endowment Fund:

- Great Starts Collaborative/HCISD, \$1,872 designated for identifying and recruiting child care providers interested in becoming licensed with the State of Michigan
- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$1,800 for county-wide trauma training
- Hillsdale High School, \$722 to purchase supplies needed to start a Knitting Club

Field of Interest funds allow donors to support broad areas of interest, such as education, the arts, or youth services. The Foundation makes grants to the most appropriate programs or organizations within the specified field. While a donor directs a Field of Interest Fund established from its creation, the maintenance is left up to HCCF. HCCF's professional staff continually monitors changing community needs so that donors can be sure grants made in the name of the fund make the most impact in the specified field of interest and create a personal legacy of giving.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR CONT. FROM 1**  
First place winner, Brad Felix, has taught for 28 years at Hillsdale Community Schools. Mr. Felix is dedicated and committed as he strives to make math real to students. He has taken a difficult, required class, Algebra II, and has worked hard to ensure every student has the ability and opportunity to be successful in his class. One unique strategy that he uses is once a week, he sits at a desk in the middle of the classroom to make himself "one of the students" and a part of their environment. Brad also expands his teaching beyond the classroom and on to the court through his role as the Boys Varsity Basketball coach. He looks at his role as a coach as another form of teaching, building relationships with players and leading them to succeed.

One of Brad's supporters noted he is one of the most dedicated, organized and passionate educators one can find.

Second place winner, David Boswell, has served as the vocal music teacher for the past 29 years at Hillsdale Community Schools. Mr. Boswell's commitment to the school and community is seen in his multiple ventures, awards and recognition. Under David's direction, multiple students have gained Regional and State recognition in Honors Choir, many have pursued post-secondary training as vocal music majors and his students have had opportunities through collaborations with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra and the Hillsdale Arts Chorale. Among several opportunities he has provided for his students, Boswell's love for music inspired him to create Artrageous!, a weekend dedicated to promoting the students and their artistic talents

through various art forms. A supporter of David noted that he has given his students an outlet to escape the stress of academics, social pressures and growing up, and in the process, created a legacy of excellence in the music community.

Honorable mentions were also awarded to two excellent teachers. Charlayne McClanahan, Reynolds Elementary Reading teacher, has taught grades 4 through 6 for the past 9 years. Amanda Waidely, Hillsdale Community Schools English teacher, has proudly served the past 6 years. Both honored educators play a crucial role in their school communities with their peers and students. Nominations were received from educational professionals, students, parents, and community members in general. This year, 37 teachers were nominated, with several receiving multiple nominations.

[www.abouthccf.org](http://www.abouthccf.org)

# Hillsdale County Community Foundation

## *Congratulates our 2019 Teacher of the Year Nominees!*

The following teachers were recognized for their outstanding service in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students.

### The 2019 Teacher of the Year nominees were:

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<b>David Boswell</b> , Hillsdale High School*	<b>Charlayne McClanahan</b> , Reynold's Elementary
<b>Sharri Beatty</b> , Williams Elementary	<b>Jamie MyKeloff</b> , Jonesville High School
<b>Teresa Bonifield</b> , Will Carleton Academy	<b>Stacey Otterbein</b> , Reynold's Elementary
<b>Carie Brown</b> , Hillsdale Academy	<b>Chip Patterson</b> , Hillsdale High School*
<b>Brad Brown</b> , Pittsford High School	<b>Josh Perrin</b> , Jonesville High School
<b>Kayla Center</b> , Will Carleton Academy	<b>Dean Potter</b> , Hillsdale High School
<b>Lesleigh Clark</b> , Owen's High School	<b>Kallene Riddle</b> , Bird Lake Bible School
<b>Brianna Crall</b> , Gier Elementary*	<b>Clay Schiman</b> , Hillsdale High School
<b>Jerry Curby</b> , Hillsdale High School	<b>Christyn Smith</b> , Litchfield Community Schools
<b>Mindy Eggleston</b> , Hillsdale High School*	<b>Amiee Snyder</b> , Williams Elementary
<b>Brad Felix</b> , Hillsdale High School*	<b>Sarah Sutliff</b> , Hillsdale High School
<b>Margo Fether</b> , Waldron High School	<b>Kimberly Sweebe</b> , Gier Elementary
<b>Mike Healy</b> , Owen's High School	<b>Les Traxler</b> , Davis Middle School
<b>Peter Konieczki</b> , Jonesville High School	<b>Nick Tucker</b> , Hillsdale High School*
<b>Pamela Krage</b> , Freedom Christian School	<b>Amanda Waidely</b> , Hillsdale High School
<b>Marc Lemerand</b> , Hillsdale High School	<b>Sarah Walworth</b> , Hillsdale High School
<b>Kelly Livensparger</b> , Gier Elementary	<b>Erin Williamson</b> , Gier Elementary
<b>Holly Loader</b> , Gier Elementary	<b>Laura Wilson</b> , Davis Middle School
<b>Janelle Masters</b> , Bird Lake Bible School	<b>* Previous Teacher of the Year Winner</b>

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Nominations for the 2020 Teacher of the Year Award will be accepted beginning September 1st through December 6th.

If you know a Hillsdale County teacher who goes above and beyond by enriching the lives of their students and showing dedication to their school and community, you are invited to nominate them for this award.

**Nomination forms are available on the  
Hillsdale County Community Foundation website, [www.abouthccf.org](http://www.abouthccf.org).**



# Community Investment Fund Grant Awards

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018-19 grant cycle.

In total, \$142,192.05 has been awarded from the Community Investment Fund to area non-profit organizations for various projects or programs that benefit Hillsdale County residents. The following organizations were awarded funding through the Community Investment Fund:

- Highfields, Inc. was awarded \$2,000 for home based and Parents as Teachers materials
- HC Great Starts Collaborative, awarded \$20,000 for additional family treatment costs
- Hillsdale Hospital, awarded \$14,000 for providing life saving devices (AED units) for law enforcement
- Montgomery Fire Department, awarded \$2,532.58 for PPE clothing
- St. Francis Camp on the Lake, awarded \$3,108 for their play scape project that will benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities
- Friends of the Mitchell Research Center, awarded \$1,011.97 for improvement of document storage and access to digitized documents
- Hillsdale College G.O.A.L. Program, awarded \$15,000 for use in their student led community programs
- HC Great Starts Collaborative, awarded \$2,000 for the Hillsdale County StoryWalk to promote literacy and nutrition awareness
- Jonesville Rotary Club was awarded \$3,000 to create a nature garden in Jonesville

- The Village of Waldron, awarded \$4,000 to make improvements to Rutledge Park
- Hospice of Hillsdale County, \$1,800 to purchase feminine nightgowns for their patients
- Hillsdale Community Library, \$800.00 for the summer reading program – A Universe of Stars
- The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was awarded \$13,000 for development of Leadership Hillsdale County
- HCCF was awarded \$5,000 for the development and implementation of the Give Where You Live video
- HC Register of Deeds, awarded \$7,000 to preserve an 1857 County map
- Hillsdale Co. District Court was awarded \$5,000 for the unmet needs of Drug Court participants
- Jonesville District Library, awarded \$3,550 for their Arbor Project
- Jonesville 1st Presbyterian Church, awarded \$1,177.50 for their community AED and CPR training
- Litchfield Garden Club, awarded \$4,875 for their landscape renewal at Litchfield High School
- Michindoh Conference Center was awarded \$15,000 for their High Ropes Challenge Course
- Muscular Dystrophy Association, awarded \$2,000 for Summer Camp sponsorship for Hillsdale County residents
- Share the Warmth of Hillsdale County was awarded \$14,837 for startup costs
- Waldron Area Schools was awarded \$1,500 for percussion upgrades for the band

## NEW FUNDS CONT. FROM 1

- to a graduating senior from Pittsford High School.
- Sauk Theatre Bud Vear Scholarship Fund will provide a scholarship to an individual, regardless of age, who seeks an education. Preference will be given to those students pursuing an involvement in theatre.
- Tyler Neukom Memorial Fund will provide merit based scholarships for youth in Branch and Hillsdale Counties who wish to sponsor, or attend clinics, livestock camps, agriculture related trainings or rodeo competitions.
- Lyndell Patrick Scholarship Fund will provide a renewable scholarship to a graduating senior of Hillsdale High School who is attending Central Michigan University.
- Marvin & Helen Patrick Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide a renewable scholarship to a graduating senior of Pittsford High School who is attending Hillsdale College, Central Michigan University or Western Michigan University.
- Don Leader Scholarship Fund will provide an annual scholarship to a high academic achieving graduating senior from Reading High School.
- Judge Michael E Nye Scholarship Fund will provide an annual scholarship to a student of a school district serving Hillsdale County who seeks a pre-law degree.

## Hillsdale County College Fair

Monday, October 14  
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.



Biermann Athletic Center  
Hillsdale College

Over 60 college/university reps  
and military recruiters

[www.abouthccf.org](http://www.abouthccf.org)



Hillsdale County

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MEET THE STAFF

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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 Receive Statewide Award

FOUR YOUTH advisory council (YACs) took home awards at the 2019 Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference...



The HCCF YOUTH created and distributed #YOUMATTER posters around their schools to raise awareness for mental health.



Five HCCF YOUTH members receive 2019 Media Usage of the Year Award with HCCF President/CEO Sharon Bisher and CMF President Kyle Caldwell.

The award showcases the YOUTH's unwavering commitment to the Hillsdale County community. CMF's president Kyle Caldwell presented the awards to the YACs on behalf of the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee.

The HCCF YOUTH created the #YOUMATTER Campaign to raise awareness for mental health within their community. During this campaign, the students were responsible for carrying out the initiative in their schools. YOUTH members

made up individualized locker signs that included encouraging quotes that were distributed in the schools to bring about awareness. Various groups were also identified to participate in photos that were then posted on social media outlets. This award serves as an excellent reminder of the impact youth grantmakers can have on their community.