**Our Commitment to You**

- To work toward a healthy community with self-sufficient individuals and families living in responsible and loving environments.
- To pursue ways to promote lasting, positive change in all areas of our society.
- To constitute wise financial decisions; to be a good steward of the monies entrusted to us by our donors.
- To provide excellent service to our donors and non-profit organizations seeking assistance to fulfill their philanthropic intentions.
- To continually develop our community assets and work to strengthen our county.
- Since our establishment in 1991, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation has been operating under these principles and remains devoted to the continual fulfillment of our mission.

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**OUR MISSION**

To receive and administer funds for artistic, charitable, educational, and scientific purposes in a manner that both promotes the spirit of philanthropy and meets the needs of the people of Hillsdale County.
Thanks to our donors, community partners and local supporters, we have had another amazing year at the Hillsdale County Community Foundation! The pages throughout this report will tell the story of how philanthropy is making a difference in our communities.

The theme for this year’s report is Connecting the Pieces of Our Community. This report gives life to our belief that together we can do more. Through our collective efforts and partnership, great things are happening in our communities and county. Each month in the calendar features a grant, an organization, a program or individuals that connected with others to achieve success.

The Foundation is proud to again lead by example. Whether it is a program, grant, or community project, we believe that no one can do this work alone. Our Give Where You Live program connects individuals, donors and non-profit organizations to provide much needed financial support to our most needy populations. The Warm the Children program is an example of community partnerships between our local Wal-Mart, Community Action Agency and the Foundation to provide warm clothing to children in need. Our Donor Advised Funds made a huge impact this year connecting our donors with areas they are most passionate about. All of these connections resulted in over $1.1 million in grant monies being distributed throughout our county this year.

We are so grateful for our community partners, donors, fund holders and everyone else that have joined with us and supported our effort to make a difference in our county. The pages in the calendar celebrate our hard work and successes that have come about through our willingness to work together. Let’s keep it going. Together we are making a difference!
The Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative Story Walk

The Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative received a $2,000 grant to sponsor a Story Walk. On July 13, HC Great Start held a Story Walk at the Hillsdale County Farmer’s Market. The purpose of the event was to promote literacy and provide nutrition awareness to families with young children, partnering with the Farmer’s Market and the county libraries. The event gave families the opportunity to read popular children’s books with librarians who volunteered their time to read a portion of the story. For attending, families were given a token they exchanged for $5 worth of fresh produce from participating vendors. They were also able to select a book to take home, along with a snack and an activity. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was proud to support this event.

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Every year, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation awards scholarships to Hillsdale County area students. Each scholarship has different requirements, but gives recipients the opportunity to financially prepare for their educational future. Ellie Ackerson was one of the many Hillsdale County seniors that received scholarships through HCCF. Ackerson was involved in many sports, activities and clubs during her high school years and was named the “2019 Jonesville Youth Citizen of the Year”.

As a senior at Jonesville High School, Ellie had to decide where she was going to attend college and how she was going to prepare for that transition. Attending college was important to her because it would be necessary in order to be who she wanted to be. She knew she had to go to college, to get involved, experience new opportunities, network and attain the knowledge and credentials.

Ellie decided to attend Oakland University with a goal to become a doctor. She chose Oakland University because of the honors program offered and its various educational opportunities. To prepare for college, Ellie took A.P. classes in high school, studied as much science as she could and dual enrolled at Jackson College.

Attending college has given Ellie opportunities that she would not have otherwise and is thankful that her scholarships help made it possible. Ellie’s goals for college are to study hard and engage in opportunities on campus while maintaining a high GPA. She would also like to participate in a medical mission trip.

Ellie shared advice for graduating seniors: “You need to love where you live. Ask yourself ‘can I see myself living here for the next 4 years of my life? Do I see myself there?’” She also expressed, “Your mental health is so important and can affect your future. Always make your mental health a priority”. 

**Spotlight:**

**Ellie Ackerson**

**SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED:**

- **EMILY R. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
- **HERB BORDNER/JONESVILLE AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP**
- **HILLSDALE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP**
- **JONESVILLE ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP**

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**HCCF Scholarship Applications Due Must be Postmarked by this Date**

- **30**

**St. Patrick’s Day Employee Appreciation Day Vernal Equinox Spring Begins Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**MARCH 2020**

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**Hillsdale County Community Foundation 2019 Scholarships**

- **120 Scholarship Funds**
- **236 Scholarships Awarded**
- **$214,130 Total Awarded**
- **162 Recipients 45 Universities**
Michindoh Grant

This year, HCCF made two grants towards the new multi-level high ropes challenge course at Michindoh Conference Center. In May, the YOUTH granted $5,000 towards the project and in June HCCF granted another $15,000. Michindoh’s existing course was installed over 25 years ago, and by building the new course, it ensured withstanding 50+ years. The course is designed to teach participants how to work together in community, challenge their own understanding of what they can accomplish, and learn to support each other. HCCF was excited to fund this project because of the mission behind it. Michindoh’s goal was to provide the high ropes course as a tool for the youth of the community through various local schools, retreats, events, and community programs as the course is available for 5th graders to adults.

With volunteers and staff labor, Michindoh reduced expected total costs for the project. Through the efforts of their board and staff, they were able to leverage a significant amount of funding. The money that HCCF granted was the remaining $20,000 needed to complete the project. Michindoh Conference Center officially opened the course in the fall of 2019. The course is two stories high, with nine elements on each story. A unique part of the project was that a committee of youth were involved in the construction of the project, being trained in the benefits of its use and participated in providing the activity to other youth.

Director of Guest Services, Travis Favreau, expressed his excitement about the project, “the course features an access stairway and deck that allows guests with a broad range of physical abilities to participate, as well as a continuous belay system that greatly increases course safety. These two features would have not been made possible without the YOUTH grant.”
YOUTH Alumni Spotlight: Jordan Richardson

Community is the biggest force that drives what HCCF does and Jordan Richardson feels the same. Richardson joined the YOUTH as a junior in high school in 2006 when he was asked by an upperclassman who was transitioning out to take his place. He was excited about the opportunity for community leadership, to have an input, and to collaborate with students from other schools in Hillsdale County. “Not every sixteen-year-old gets to do that,” Jordan said.

During his time with YOUTH, Richardson remembered a grant they provided to a rodeo arena at the fairgrounds and how unfamiliar he was with it. He had this “ah-hah” moment where he realized that although he did not have anything to contribute personally, he recognized there was still a need, not for him but for the community.

After high school, Richardson continued his education at Hope College studying Economics and Business Management. Professionally, Jordan worked in Sales in Grand Haven and then moved to Iowa where he worked at a camp, then as a financial advisor. Jordan now serves as the Director of Charitable Giving at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. It was the work that he did with the YOUTH that ultimately sparked his interest for his current job.

Having the background with the YOUTH helped him to choose a career path in philanthropy. As a past financial advisor, he was always the conversations about charitable giving that excited him. “It’s all I wanted to talk about and now I’m doing it every day,” Jordan said.

In his current role, Richardson works with individual donors and professional advisors – his job is to get out and tell the story. Richardson shared that the most rewarding part of his job is meeting with the individual donors. “They are always so generous and eager to learn about what they can do for the community,” Jordan said. He occasionally has the opportunity to meet with parents and their children or even grandchildren, and talk about their legacy and what that will look like.

Richardson recognized that it is important to be involved in the community. “Voices matter; diverse voices matter,” he shared. As a 30-year-old young adult, he is able to plug in personally and professionally. He is able to have an opinion, to be heard, and to speak up in the community.

Richardson shared advice for current YOUTH members: “Cherish this opportunity. Recognize that this is something not everyone has the chance to do—it’s a big deal.” Jordan said. “Believe in Hillsdale County and the town you’re from. The future is bright and I believe that the YOUTH has the capacity to make changes, changes that no other group could make.”

Looking for more information? Go to www.abouthccf.org for:

- Scholarship Recipients
- Grant Awards from Donor Advised, Designated, and Field of Interest Funds
- Grant Awards from the HCCF General Endowment Fund
- Grant Awards from the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund
- Funds of the Foundation
The YOUTH Program provides grants to county non-profit organizations that benefit youth and are involved in work that bring awareness to youth related issues, community service, fund development and volunteerism to make a difference in the community.

This year, the YOUTH ran a mental health awareness campaign called #You Matter. The campaign served as a second part response to bringing awareness to youth mental health. During this campaign, the students were responsible for carrying out the #YOMATTER initiative in their schools. YOUTH members made up individualized locker signs that included encouraging quotes that were distributed in the schools to show that every person matters and everyone is important. Various groups were also identified to post photos on social media to show their support and acknowledge the importance of mental health in youth. This initiative led to not only youth participation, but even school administrators took part. The #YOMATTER campaign was significant because it led to the discussion of mental health issues and worked to reduce the stigmas associated with it.

In recognition of their efforts, The YOUTH were awarded the Media Usage of the Year Award at the 2019 Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference. The Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) and Michigan Community Foundation’s Youth Project (MCFYP) honored the HCCF YOUTH for their outstanding work. This award serves as an excellent reminder of the impact youth grant makers can have on their community.
Give Where You Live

The Give Where You Live initiative is a community giving program aimed at meeting the needs of area non-profits. HCCF has proudly sponsored this program since 2011, offering local residents and organizations the financial security as well as opportunities to continue to give to the programs they care about most. Since then, the program has grown to include 12 agencies and 3 area food pantries. For the past 8 years, Give Where You Live has given donors the option to designate their gifts to a particular agency or an unrestricted fund. Ways of giving include payroll deductions, ACH transfer or giving an outright gift. The Give Where You Live program includes the following agencies:

- Alpha Omega Care Center
- Community Action Agency
- CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness)
- Domestic Harmony
- Greater Hillsdale Humane Society
- Hillsdale Area Men With Vision
- Hillsdale County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children)
- Hillsdale County Senior Services Center
- Hospice of Hillsdale County
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Salvation Army
- St. Peter's Free Clinic
- Area Food Pantries:
  - King's Kupboard
  - Lifeline
  - Waldron First Church of Christ

The following events are planned for July 2020:

- Independence Day (4th of July)
- Parents Day

**SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY**
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| | | Independence Day (4th of July) | | | | |
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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

**CAA DIAPER DRIVE**

**DOMESTIC HARMONY AND GOAL**

**HOSPICE OF HILLSDALE COUNTY**

**SENIOR SERVICES CENTER**
SPOTLIGHT:
Hillsdale College Goal Program

The Hillsdale College GOAL program was established in 1988 through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The GOAL program is a chance to connect Hillsdale College students with meaningful opportunities to serve the local community with their time and talents. GOAL strives to invest in the local community by developing sustainable programs that address unmet community needs and connecting student volunteers where they can have the greatest impact. There are currently twenty-one service opportunities within the GOAL Program.

Through a unique collaborative effort, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation has been able to provide grant funding to various GOAL programs to enhance their activity within our county. The collaboration includes training on community statistics, grant writing workshops and outcome based reporting.

Each goal program was required to complete a grant application and participate in a presentation to a committee for funding consideration. Grant awards totaling $15,000 were announced in a special presentation. The Foundation is looking forward to continuing this collaboration that encourages volunteerism, real life experience for students and promotes the spirit of philanthropy!

Looking for more information? Go to www.abouthccf.org for:
- Scholarship Recipients
- Grant Awards from Donor Advised, Designated, and Field of Interest Funds
- Grant Awards from the HCCF General Endowment Fund
- Grant Awards from the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund
- Funds of the Foundation
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 Hartley 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.
- 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 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 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 2018-2019 Overview

Endowed Funds $16,294,230

Contributions $1,349,535

New Donors 222

Asset Size $18,619,271

Grants Given 388

Pass Through Fund $2,325,041

SEPTEMBER 2020

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HCCF YOUTH Mini-Grant Applications Due

Hillsdale County Fair Begins

Summer Equinox Begins

Yom Kippur Begins

Yom Kippur Ends
Warm the Children

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation is proud to sponsor the “Warm the Children” program. For the past twelve years, the program has been able to provide essential needs for families. Since 2007, Warm the Children has served 1,692 children providing $94,545 worth of new, warm winter clothing. The program aims to assist local families, giving them one less thing to worry about.

Warm the Children gives families the opportunity to shop for the items they need, ensuring the accurate size, and giving the children the chance to pick out their own clothing to wear during the cold winter months. HCCF receives donations and works with Walmart to coordinate the shopping every year.

Warm the Children has been blessed with many generous donors. Without donations, the program would not be able to continue. HCCF gratefully accepts donations throughout the year and 100 percent go towards the purchase of clothes with no administrative costs. Donations to the Warm the Children fund are fully tax deductible.

Since 2007

$94,545
Worth of new, warm winter clothing

1,692
Children served

$0
Administrative costs

OCTOBER 2020

Columbus Day
The Hillsdale County Community
Foundation is proud to sponsor the
“Warm the Children” program. For
the past twelve years, the program has
been able to provide essential needs
for families. Since 2007, Warm the
Children has served 1,692 children
providing $94,545 worth of new,
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Warm the Children has been blessed
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be able to continue. HCCF gratefully
accepts donations throughout the year
and 100 percent go towards the purchase
of clothes with no administrative costs.
Donations to the Warm the Children
fund are fully tax deductible.
The Great Give

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation is proud to sponsor the Great Give event, a day aimed at encouraging all of Hillsdale County to give to local non-profits. The event is held the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving, which is also recognized as Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global day dedicated to giving back. Families, individuals, and businesses come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and give. The spirit of philanthropy is widely demonstrated in Hillsdale County.

The Great Give provides people the chance to make donations to local non-profits, many of them providing critical assistance for local needs. In 2018, many people made donations to eight local non-profits. There were opportunities for agencies to receive both random and assigned prizes and funds from the bonus pool. In addition, HCCF accepted gifts for a number of other non-profit organizations, which were passed along directly to those agencies. 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, 1,405 contributions were received during the Great Give.

The area non-profits that were directly involved in the Great Give were: Alpha Omega, CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness), Community Action Agency, Domestic Harmony, Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, Hospice of Hillsdale County, and St. Peter’s Free Clinic.

Looking for more information? Go to www.abouthccf.org for:
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- Grant Awards from Donor Advised, Designated, and Field of Interest Funds
- Grant Awards from the HCCF General Endowment Fund
- Grant Awards from the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund
- Funds of the Foundation
The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was established in 1991 for the purpose of assisting residents in receiving and administering charitable contributions in order to make our communities a better place to live, work and play. HCCF strives each day to work towards creating a healthy community and pursuing ways to bring about positive changes. We bring that to fruition by continuously making wise financial decisions and providing excellent service to community members, donors, grantees and other supporting organizations.

Endowing a fund with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation creates a legacy of caring that continues to benefit our community for many generations to come. Endowments are gifts that keep on giving. The income earned from an endowment fund will support our community today and into the future. An endowed fund with us ensures there will always be philanthropic resources available to meet the community’s most pressing needs and promising opportunities.

As part of the effort of securing our future, the Foundation founded The Legacy Society. The Legacy Society recognizes those who have named the Hillsdale County Community Foundation as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift. By leaving a gift to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation in your estate plan, you could become a member of our Legacy Society. HCCF never asks how much is being left to the Foundation and will never share any personal planned giving information. The sole purpose is to acknowledge and thank those who have made these gifts and to encourage and inspire others to do the same. We hope you will join us.

Looking for more information?
Go to www.abouthcff.org for:
- Scholarship Recipients
- Grant Awards from Donor Advised, Designated, and Field of Interest Funds
- Grant Awards from the HCCF General Endowment Fund
- Grant Awards from the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund
- Funds of the Foundation
Operating with the highest form of accountability and integrity.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Accreditation Program certifies U.S. community foundations that meet and exceed federal and state law requirements in practice and by policy. The accreditation process is rigorous, and undertaking it demonstrates a community foundation’s commitment to accountability and excellence to its donors, its community, policymakers, and the public. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation is proud to have held this accreditation since 2004.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board (CFNSB) is a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations and is responsible for the quality, value and integrity of compliance with National Standards. The board ensures that National Standards remain relevant amid changing policies, procedures and regulations, and coordinates developments in the compliance process. Sharon Bisher, HCCF President, has been a member of this board since the March of 2018.

990 Statement

“The prudent investment of assets is a primary function of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation Board of Trustees. The Foundation invests in a varied portfolio, which results in our annual investment returns. The financial information contained in this report has been prepared using information contained in the Foundation’s annual audit for the year ended September 30, 2019. The complete audit, the IRS Form 990 tax return, names of investment managers, fees charged and the names of any parties responsible for investment oversight is available to the public. Contact the Foundation office to request any of these documents. A small fee may be charged for copying and mailing.”
Every year the foundation accepts donations of all sizes from a broad range of people who each have their own reasons for giving. Collectively their efforts help the Hillsdale Community Foundation achieve our mission to make Hillsdale County a better place to live, work and play. We are grateful, honored and pleased to recognize them in the following list.

Ann and Jim Ackerman
David C. and Jeanne Greenblatt Adams
Kenneth and Kathleen M. Adams
Willard and Terri Atkinson
Brad Aldhizer
Katherine A. Albrecht
Alliance Foundation Inc.
John and Karen Albrechts
Kimberly Alle
Hubert Anderson
Charlotte and Michael Armitage
David Arnett
Lonnie and Emily Arent
Flavio Arnegger
Anna Arneson
Amy Arvin
Charles M. Atwood
Linda protesters

Warne and Kristin Babcock
Jessica Babylon
Lara Baker
Bella Baker
Kim Ball
Gary Barlow
William Barge
Jordan Barkett
Donald B.
Linda and Susan B.
Sanger
Jurgen
John and Laura Baur
Brett
Robert and Burt Baur
Julia and David Bauer
Ashleigh and Michael Baur
Brett Baker
Sarah and Bruce Baur
Joelle Baker
Lisa Baker
Brock Barksdale
Brett and Rebekah Bausch
Carol Bartlett
Mohamed and Virginia Baudin
Brian and Susan Baugh
Sara and Rich Baum
Karen and Bruce Beamer
John and Josephine Beach
Gary A. and Mary A. Beal
Raymond B.
Luetta Baker
Lisa Baker
Colleen Armey
Leed
John and Linda VanCamp
Dan Vanderhill
Gretna VanFleet
Walter
Sale
Teresa M. War

Brown and Arsena Wade
Brian and Mary McCarthy
John and Wendy Waldrum
Waldron Tavern
Marvin and Karen Wampler
July C. W."s Foundation
Mary A. and Donald M. Wampen
Hannah Waples
David W. Watkins
Karen W. Watkins

Andrew Wendelski
Harry and Fran Weiss
Jeff and Carol Weiss
L.W. Fish
Steven and Karen Wells
Wells Equipment Inc.
Steve and Kim Westerberg
Linda Westfall
Wheeland Congregational Church
Braden and Karen Wheeler
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Honda and Georgia Bentley
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Blake and Stephanie Berts
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Sara and John Bider
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Cherie
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Debra K.
Brown
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Karen Braun
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Kim and John Budge
Kimberly Brubaker
Martin G. and Connie Brown
Linda B. Bryant
Robert P. and Carolyn I.
Bryant
Jacqueline Budy
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Mike and Kristy Burger
Damien and Lisa Burns
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John and Judi Ricken
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Theresa
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Kristin A. Townsend
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Amara and Mary Ann Turki

United World Wide

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D. Irona Valentine
Denise and Brian VanArsdalen
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Dan Vanderhill
Gretna VanFleet
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