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HCCF YOUTH Member Receives Statewide Award

IN THE SUMMER of 2020, Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) member Lindsey Clarke was recognized with the Robert S. Collier—Passion in Philanthropy award. This award is given to an individual who represents a dedication to youth philanthropy and community engagement. The Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee recognizes that Youth Advisory Councils across the state give a great amount of time and energy to better their communities, and they celebrate that with their annual "Yac of the Year" awards.



Y.O.U.T.H. Member Lindsey Clarke with President Sharon Bisher

Lindsey Clarke has been an exceptional leader as a part of the Y.O.U.T.H. She has served with the YOUTH for the past 4 years and has served as the HCCF YOUTH Trustee for the past 2 years. Since then, Lindsey has been involved in various fund development, awareness, volunteerism and community service projects. She has attended the MCFYP Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference three times to bring back best practices and ideas for the Y.O.U.T.H. and has engaged in years of grant making. Lindsey is dedicated to philanthropy and serving the youth in her community. "It feels amazing to be recognized for my efforts within the community, the Foundation and MCFYP," said Lindsey. "Serving on the Adult Foundation Board, representing the entire youth of Hillsdale County, made this award even more special to me, knowing I have impacted more lives than I will ever know." The Hillsdale County Community Foundation is proud of Lindsey and sincerely thanks her for her service on the YOUTH and as the YOUTH Trustee.

Return to School

THIS SUMMER, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation provided \$82,000 in emergency funding from the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund, the Unrestricted Fund and the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund to support local school districts in returning to school. This funding was in partnership with the Hillsdale Hospital to respond to the financial burden the Hillsdale County school districts are facing and covered the costs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Hillsdale Hospital generously donated 10,000 cloth face coverings and an initial 600 gallons of hand sanitizers while the Foundation covered the costs of sanitizing stations, thermometers, gloves, sprayers and cleaning supplies to ensure both students and staff can safely return to school. With the start of the school year, many families faced challenges when it came **CONTINUED ON 3**

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Hillsdale County Community Foundation

2020 Scholarships

124

Scholarship Funds

196

Scholarships
Awarded

\$205,010

Total Awarded

132

Recipients

37

Universities

2020 YOUTH Graduates

SEVEN 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.



*Brendan Busch
Will Carleton
Academy—
Hillsdale College,
Biology*



*Lindsey Clarke
Pittsford—
Central Michigan,
Forensic Anthropology,
Archaeology*



*Hallee Forbes
North Adams-Jerome—
Early Middle College
program,
Pre-Veterinary Medicine*



*Carson Laney
Jonesville—
Northwood University,
Sports Management*



*Kimball Hughes
Pittsford—
Trine University,
Computer Engineering*



*Emily Marquart
Reading—
Early Middle College
program,
Business Management*



*Gavin Zimmerman
Litchfield—
Wright State University,
Engineering*



Hillsdale County
community foundation

2020 HCCF Scholarship Information

IN THE spring of 2020, HCCF experienced a scholarship season drastically different from any other. What began as a regular scholarship process quickly became a puzzle that needed to be put together. On March 1, the Foundation was filled with scholarship applicants turning in their applications and confirming the checklists. Just a few weeks later schools were closing and individuals were working from home; the world completely changed.

Even with the COVID-19 outbreak in the middle of the process, the Community Foundation was determined to award scholarships. HCCF met with selection committees virtually for the first time ever to make decisions for the 2020 scholarship season. The Foundation received 239 applications and was delighted to award \$205,010 in scholarships. With so many great applications it is very challenging to make award decisions, and we would like to thank the community members who volunteered 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.

local non-profits responding to the emergent needs in Hillsdale County.

- Linc Miller Educational Fund – selected by the staff, this is a yearly scholarship of \$500 given to a graduating senior at Hillsdale High School pursuing post-high school education or training.

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 eight 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:

- Paul Leece Memorial Fund—the purpose of this fund is to support worthwhile projects in Hillsdale County, as directed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.
- Leadership Hillsdale County—the purpose of this fund is to support the Leadership Hillsdale County program.
- Hodshire Family Community Support Fund—the purpose of this fund is

to support worthwhile projects in Hillsdale County, as directed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

- HCCF Alumni Trustee Fund—the purpose of this fund is to establish an endowment fund, the income from which will be distributed annually for worthwhile Hillsdale County projects, as directed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.
- Resilient Hillsdale County Fund—the purpose of this fund is to support the work of the Resilient Hillsdale County work group.
- 2020 Hillsdale County Census—the purpose of this fund is to support the marketing and promotional activities related to the 2020 Census.
- Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund—in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the purpose of this fund is to make emergency grants to

HCCF Field of Interest Fund Grant Awards

\$17,746.26 been awarded from a number of funds administered by the Foundation to area non-profit organizations for targeted projects or programs to benefit Hillsdale County residents.

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

- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$2,215 for a volunteer appreciation dinner and training.
- Hillsdale County Agricultural Society, \$2,500 for a volunteer appreciation dinner.

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

- Camden Township Library, \$401.96 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.
- Jonesville District Library, \$400 for the teen non-fiction book collection.
- Jonesville High School Library, \$1,000 for costs associated with a visit from author, Jennifer Nielsen
- Hillsdale Community Library, \$1,000 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.
- Litchfield District Library, \$521.90 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.
- North Adams Community Memorial Library, \$916.87 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.

- Pittsford Public Library, \$1,000 for a family movie and picture book collection.
- Reading Community Library, \$418.81 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.
- Waldron District Library, \$975 for the summer reading program—Imagine Your Story.

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

- Camden-Frontier Schools, \$3,896.72 to assist with the implementation of a new CrossFit Program in purchasing needed equipment.
- Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, \$2,500 to assist with the costs associated with the Grand Paws program.

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.

www.abouthccf.org

RETURN TO SCHOOL CONT. FROM 3
to having proper PPE, but with the financial support they had access to this protective equipment.

As local school’s districts were preparing to return to in-person instruction, HCCF and the Hillsdale Hospital worked collaboratively and served on a joint task force with the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District (HCISD) and superintendents, infection control experts and the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph (BHSJ) Community Health Agency. The task force joined in weekly calls and worked together to secure the emergency funding, while ensuring adequate training and equipment were in place. “Hillsdale County schools had faced numerous hardships this year, which is why we had to come together to support them,” said Sharon Bisher, HCCF President and CEO. “Our schools impact every facet of this community and our students deserved an opportunity to return to school feeling safe. We were proud to be a sponsor of this project.” Required PPE had been challenging to secure with delays in deliveries, but the Community Foundation worked hard to ensure the area schools would be prepared.

After delaying the start date, Hillsdale County area schools returned to school after Labor Day with the proper precautions in place to create a healthy environment for students, faculty and staff. HCCF was proud to fund this effort and will continue to work closely with the HCISD and the Hillsdale Hospital to provide support and assistance as they navigate the remainder of the school year.

MEET THE STAFF

Sharon Bisher, PRESIDENT/CEO. s.bisher@abouthccf.org
Susan Stout, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS s.stout@abouthccf.org
Caitlin Sterling, MARKETING/YOUTH PROGRAM OFFICER c.sterling@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!



Hillsdale County

community foundation

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Emergency Relief Funding

IN THE spring of 2020, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation created the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund. This fund was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Hillsdale County. HCCF created the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Grant soon after to provide organizations the opportunity to attain funding to help assist with emergent needs in Hillsdale County associated with COVID-19. Applications for the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Grant are still being accepted. For grant guidelines and more information, please visit our website, www.abouthccf.org.

HCCF sincerely thanks those who donated to the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund. If you would like to assist the Community Foundation with local COVID-19 relief, please visit our website or contact our staff at 517-439-5101. You may also mail a check made out to HCCF, 2 S Howell St. PO Box 276, Hillsdale MI 49242.

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need



The Warm the Children Fund provides financial support for children in need in Hillsdale County to receive new warm, winter clothing.

Program coordinators work with a local agency to determine eligibility for program participation and make arrangements with a local store to coordinate the shopping.

Donations for this crucial program are gratefully accepted by the Hillsdale County Community Foundation throughout the year.

Please consider a contribution to provide new warm, winter clothing to families in need in Hillsdale County.