Finding what matters most.
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.

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.
This past year has brought about challenges we have never before experienced. We watched as our local businesses closed their doors, our students were required to learn in a virtual environment, our elderly were separated from their families, and people were confined to their homes. The nation was riddled with fear and our lives were forever changed. But through it all, our small community came together to remind us of what matters most.

In the coming months, we have shared with you stories of hope, kindness and inspiration. In spite of the challenges, our community came together to support our food pantries and food initiatives, volunteers gave hours of service to award grants and scholarships, and a small group of Hillsdale College students ran a fundraiser to provide much needed financial support for our residents. In a time of great uncertainty, our donors continue to support our work. With your generosity, the Foundation has received over $1M in contributions and provided over $940,000 in support back to our community—a feat we could not have done without the unwavering support of our community.

We are honored and blessed to be your Community Foundation. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to working with you in the future. Together we are making a difference!

In Community Service,

Karlye Horton, BOARD CHAIR
Sharon E. Bisher, PRESIDENT/CEO

For good. For ever.®
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“We provide our communities with more than food. We provide hope.”
— SOUTH MICHIGAN FOOD BANK
Providing Fresh Food and Hope

In the summer of 2020, Hillsdale County experienced a great deal of change, but one thing that stayed the same was the community taking care of each other. The need for more food grew, but the food pantries in Hillsdale County stepped up and responded.

The South Michigan Food Bank’s mission is to feed hungry people by collecting and distributing food and grocery products, advocating for hunger-relief programs, and collaborating with others who address basic human needs. South Michigan Food Bank began their 2020 summer Fresh Food initiative in three locations: Reading Public Schools, 1st Congregational Church of Pittsford and the Salvation Army of Hillsdale. South Michigan shares, “having access to food is one thing. Having access to fresh food is another. Our goal is to make sure that the communities we serve have access to both.” The Fresh Food Initiative allowed the participating locations to disperse fresh produce, dairy products, baked goods and meat into our communities.

In response to the Fresh Food Initiative, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation awarded funds from the Community Investment Fund to support the food security within the county. The following food pantries received funding through the Foundation:

- Kings Kupboard—$1,500 for pantry food
- 1st Congregational Church of Pittsford—$2,500 for the Fresh Food initiative
- Reading Public Schools—$3,000 for the Fresh Food initiative
- Salvation Army of Hillsdale—$2,500 for the Fresh Food initiative
- Waldron First Church of Christ - $500 for the food pantry

Acknowledging that food insecurity is a prevalent and concerning issue in Hillsdale County, HCCF was proud to support the food pantries and Fresh Food Initiative.
Ways to Give
Since 1991, HCCF has been supported by individuals who believe in the future of Hillsdale County. A gift to the Foundation will continue to give into the future, impacting individuals for years to come. The Foundation offers many ways to give:

Types of Funds You Can Create:
- **Unrestricted** – Invests in community change across all organizations improving all areas of Hillsdale County.
- **Field of Interest** – Allows support of a special area of interest while taking advantage of the Foundation’s community expertise.
- **Designated** – Provides benefit to a selected organization or program.
- **Agency** – Supports the administrative and organizational costs of the named agency.
- **Donor Advised** – Offers donor the opportunity to create a personal, flexible and safe method of charitable giving.
- **Scholarship** – Established to inspire community members to pursue their desire for post-secondary education.

Types of Gifts You Can Give:
- **Outright Gifts** – This includes gifts of cash, checks, real estate, or personal property.
- **Payroll Deduction** – Donors may choose to contribute on a regular basis to the causes they care about the most by participating in automatic payroll deduction through their employer.
- **Gifts of Stock** – These funds often provide greater tax benefits than a cash gift of equivalent value, especially if they have a low cost basis. You will receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of your property – even if you initially bought it for less. You will also avoid capital gains tax on the asset appreciation.
- **Wills and Bequests** – You have the option of contributing to the Community Foundation through planned giving, such as bequests made through wills and trusts.
- **Life Insurance** – By assigning ownership of life insurance policies to the Foundation, you can receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction in the amount of the policies’ present value.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – You can place cash or property in a trust that pays annual income to you—or another named beneficiary—for life. After your death, the remainder of the Trust transfers to your Community Foundation and is placed into a charitable fund you have selected.
- **Charitable Lead Trust** – You can place cash or property into a trust that pays a fixed amount to your Community Foundation for a selected number of years. Once this period ends, the assets held by the trust are transferred to the beneficiaries you name.

We encourage you to seek your assistance from your advisor to help you select the giving methods best suited for you and your charitable intentions.

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."

- Kathy Colvin

MARCH 2021
Wills and Bequests – You have the option of contributing to the Community Foundation through planned giving, such as bequests made through wills and trusts.

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We encourage you to seek your assistance from your advisor to help you select the giving methods best suited for you and your charitable intentions.
COVID-19 impacted our community in a way no one could have predicted. In response to that impact, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation created the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable community members during the crisis. HCCF created the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Grant application soon after to provide organizations the opportunity to attain funding to help assist with emergent needs in Hillsdale County. The impact of this fund will be felt for several years to come and will continue to meet the needs of those populations who were affected by the pandemic.

In response to the creation of the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation received a $10,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation to support the fund in assisting those most impacted. The funding provided by the Consumers Energy Foundation, along with the many donations the Foundation received, gave several agencies the opportunity to make a difference in their community. Some examples of grants awarded through the Emergency Relief Fund include funding for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in schools, operational expenses that will assist organizations in continuing their work and assisting in making up for the loss of fundraising support. In total, $105,861 has been awarded through the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Grant.

In a time of uncertainty, HCCF was very thankful to receive the funding from the Consumers Energy Foundation. The Foundation was also proud to support organizations through the Emergency Relief Fund to provide some hope for the future of Hillsdale County.
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Virtual Decision Day

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Foundation worked with Hillsdale High School to promote post-secondary options in collaboration with the Future Corps. This team is committed to preparing all students to succeed after high school. The Hillsdale High School Future Corps engages in three tasks; they run high-profile peer campaigns to increase college applications and FAFSA outcomes, they train students and faculty in the latest college access and success technology apps and they provide assistance for college counseling staff, including planning Decision Day.

Every year, Hillsdale High School hosts a Decision Day for seniors to announce and celebrate their plans for after high school. Although it is always an in-person event, that was not an option for the Class of 2020. Hillsdale High School’s doors had to remain closed in the spring, but the seniors and faculty were still determined to celebrate their decisions and to make it special. Teacher, Mindy Eggleston, and the Future Corps did not want to cancel the event, so they came up with the idea of a “Virtual Decision Day”.

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was proud to partner with the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) to provide a grant of $1,928.48 for Hillsdale High School to implement the event. Virtual Decision Day events occurred over a two-week span and included 5 videos that celebrated and recognized the 2020 seniors. The third video in the series was a live Facebook video on May 1st at 20:20 pm. Various school faculty and staff virtually announced each senior’s plans for the future under illuminated high school football field lights. Mindy Eggleston shared “I missed my students very much, I missed seeing people and seeing faces. This was one way we could celebrate our seniors.”

HCCF coordinated with Hillsdale High School to create Decision Day t-shirts that seniors could pick up and wear for their virtual Decision Day events. The unique t-shirts read “Hillsdale High School Seniors 2020 – The one where they were quarantined.” The Foundation was proud to be a part of the Decision Day activities and celebrating the class of 2020.
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For good. For ever.

Leaving a Legacy

You can leave a permanent legacy of giving, be a source of pride to your family and join others like you in building a stronger community. Endowing a fund with the Community Foundation creates a legacy of caring that continues to benefit future generations. Endowments are gifts that keep on giving. The income earned from an endowment will support our community forever. Please contact the Community Foundation for more information.

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HCCF YOUTH Class of 2020

Brendan Busch
HCCF YOUTH PRESIDENT
Brendan served on the board for 5 years and is attending Hillsdale College to study Biology.

Carson Laney
HCCF YOUTH VICE PRESIDENT
Carson served on the board for 3 years and is attending Northwood University to study Sports Management and compete in cross country and track and field.

Emily Marquart
HCCF YOUTH SECRETARY
Emily served on the board for 3 ½ years and is attending the Early Middle College program and plans to transfer to pursue a degree in Business Management.

Kimball Hughes
HCCF YOUTH TREASURER
Kimball served on the board for 3 years and is attending Trine University to study Computer Engineering and play football.

Lindsey Clarke
YOUTH TRUSTEE
Lindsey served on the board for 4 years and is attending Central Michigan University with a major in Forensic Anthropology and a minor in Archaeology and will be competing in track and field.

Hallee Forbes
YOUTH MEMBER
Served on the board for 4 years and is attending Jackson College to study Pre-Veterinary science and play volleyball.

GAVIN ZIMMERMAN
YOUTH MEMBER
Served on the board for 3 years and is attending Wright University to pursue a degree in Engineering.
**HCCF YOUTH**

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) Class of 2020 experienced a unique conclusion of their time on the board. With sudden school closings taking place, the YOUTH were unable to have their last few meetings of the school year, but that did not stop the Foundation from celebrating their seven graduating seniors. HCCF seniors were able to join together in June of 2020 to celebrate their accomplishments. The Foundation sincerely thanks the Class of 2020 for their service and leadership during their time with the YOUTH.

The Youth Advisory Committee of HCCF is made up of representatives from 10 Hillsdale County Schools.

Making a Local Impact

Although Hillsdale County experienced a challenging year, one individual, along with her sorority, used it as an opportunity to make an impact in the Hillsdale community. After Hillsdale College students were sent home, Samantha Widner, who serves as the Community Service Coordinator for the Rho Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega, began thinking of ways their sorority could fundraise that would have an immediate impact in Hillsdale County. She knew the project had to be something that could be done while everyone was spread across the country, so they decided to partner with HCCF.

The Rho Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega created a shirt fundraiser through Custom Ink and partnered with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation to raise money for the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund. HCCF created this fund to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations in the community by allowing emergency grants to local non-profits responding to the emergency needs in Hillsdale County.

Over 100 t-shirts were purchased from donors all over the country. In total, the Rho Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega raised $720 for the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund. This project gave the sorority members an opportunity to do something for the community while unable to actually be there in person. Samantha said, “When we work together, we can do some cool things and with the college we can make greater impacts.” HCCF is very thankful for the support from the Rho Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega and Hillsdale College.
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The sorority created their t-shirts with the quote “good people bring out the good in people.” Widner said, “During this weird time while everyone was apart and so spread out, I wanted the shirts to serve as an important reminder for people to set an example for others to spread joy”. She continued, “Outside of the COVID-19 bubble, it was nice to be excited about something. I would keep checking the fundraiser site to see if we had sold any more t-shirts”. This fundraiser kicked off on April 28th and ended mid-May. Over 100 t-shirts were purchased from donors all over the country.

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In the summer of 2020, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation proudly partnered with Hillsdale Hospital to support area schools in returning to school. HCCF provided $82,000 in emergency funding from the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund, the Unrestricted Fund and the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund to respond to the financial burden the Hillsdale County schools were facing to cover the costs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Hillsdale Hospital generously covered the costs of the masks and hand sanitizer while the Foundation covered the costs of sanitizing stations, thermometers, gloves, sprayers and cleaning supplies to ensure both students and staff could safely return to school. With the start of the school year, many families faced challenges when it came to having proper PPE, but with the financial support they had access to this protective equipment.

As schools were finalizing their re-opening plans, HCCF and the Hillsdale Hospital worked collaboratively 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 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."

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10 minutes is all it takes to ensure your children, neighbors and community thrive for the next 10 years.

Census data directs dollars to funding for a variety of critical community services. That's why we count.

Complete the 2020 Census. It's easy and confidential.

#HillsdaleCountyCommunityCounts

Census 2020 Fast Facts
- Confidential — answers will not be shared with ICE, police, IRS, FBI, landlords or Child Protective Services
- Offered in dozens of languages
- For every uncounted person, Michigan will lose $1,800 per person per year
- Asks for less personal information than most social media profiles
- Takes 10 minutes

Look for a Census invitation in the mail in March 2020 with instructions on how to respond online, in the mail or on the phone.

You count.

Did you know 40% of Michigan's funding comes from the federal government? The amount of money Michigan receives depends on the Census — a survey conducted every 10 years to determine the number of people living in the United States. An accurate count is vital to obtain funding for you.

Census funding impacts almost everything that's important to you.

Do you know what Census data funds? Search the tables below to see examples of Census funding for various community services.
A Complete Count

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States. Collecting this data is important because Census dollars’ impacts funding for hundreds of community services like Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, school lunches, education, highways, housing and more. In 2020, for the first time ever, the Census began receiving responses online and by phone in addition to mailing.

In Michigan, each individual counted represents $1,800 per year, which means $18,000 for ten years. In the 2010 Census, Hillsdale County only captured 67.6% of the population, resulting in the community losing out on millions worth of funding. It was determined if Hillsdale County did not capture a full count in 2020, our county would lose $17,343,000 per year for the next 10 years.

To ensure Hillsdale County reached a complete count, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation partnered with the Community Action Agency to create a Complete Count Committee. The Committee included representatives from area non-profits, churches, city and government, education, manufacturing, large employers, local businesses and family services. Committee members met monthly to discuss reaching hard-to-count populations and strategies to promote the 2020 Census. The committee created marketing materials with the hashtag #HillsdaleCountyCounts that each representative shared with their populations. HCCF was proud to be a part of the Complete Count Committee.
Hillsdale County Community Foundation

2020 Scholarships

- 124 Scholarship Funds
- 196 Scholarships Awarded
- $192,560 Total Awarded
- 132 Recipients
- 37 Universities

OCTOBER 2021
New Scholarship Process

In 2020, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation experienced a scholarship season unlike any other. On March 2nd, the Foundation office was filled with students turning in their scholarship applications, reviewing the checklist to ensure they were complete. Only a few weeks later, schools were closed and a stay-at-home order was in full effect, but HCCF was determined to award scholarships.

With new guidelines in place, the Foundation arranged for a scholarship process that included social distancing. During the months of April and May, applications were scanned and sent, and scholarship committees met virtually to make decisions for the 2020 scholarship season.

Every year the Community Foundation presents scholarship awards during each Hillsdale County school’s senior class night, but this year did not have that option. Instead, scholarship winners were announced on the HCCF website. Winners also had the opportunity to pick up their information packets and “Scholarship Winner” signs from the Foundation office. Although HCCF was unable to present awards in person, there was still a great opportunity to celebrate the class of 2020 and scholarship winners. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was proud to award a total of $205,010 for the 2020 scholarship season.

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A Great Day of Giving

NOVEMBER 2021

Since 2015

- 41 participating non-profits
- $687,775.11 gifts received
- 5,278 donations

2019 Great Give

- 8 participating non-profits
- $222,217 gifts received
- 854 donations

A Great Day of Giving 2019
In 2015 the Hillsdale County Community Foundation hosted their very first Great Give on Giving Tuesday, a globally recognized day that aims to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy through giving. This event started what is now a highly anticipated day by local Hillsdale County non-profits.

Since 2015, Hillsdale County has brought in $687,775.11 with a total of 5,278 donations for the Great Give.

In 2019, eight local non-profits joined on December 3rd to participate in the Great Give. Together, the day brought in $222,217, including public donations of $197,217 and bonus pool funds from the Community Foundation totaling $25,000.

Hannah Jordan, Director of Domestic Harmony, experienced the Great Give for the first time. Jordan commented, “If you attend the Great Give, you do not come for yourself, but you come for others which is an empowering feeling.” She continued, “I can’t think of a better way to spend the Tuesday after Thanksgiving than to collaborate with other non-profits to support the welfare of others in Hillsdale County.”

The following agencies participated in the 2019 Great Give: Alpha Omega Care Center, CAPA, CASA, Domestic Harmony, The Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, Hospice of Hillsdale County, and St. Peter’s Free Clinic. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation sincerely thanks everyone who aided in furthering the mission of participating organizations while maximizing the impact of their contributions during the Great Give event.
Adopt A Child

In December of 2019, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) had the opportunity to “adopt a child”. YOUTH members took part in a Christmas project to purchase presents for each child whose parents were going through the Hillsdale District Drug Court (HDDC). With a grant from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, HDDC started in 2017, with their first participant beginning in May of 2017. The treatment court targets prevention and recovery for addicts that includes measures such as a monitored curfew, random drug testing, surprise house visits and therapy sessions for up to two years.

This “Adopt a Child” project began when the Foundation had available funds and coordinated with the Hillsdale County District Court. The opportunity resulted in 32 children receiving new, wrapped Christmas gifts on Christmas morning. “I was grateful to be in the right place at the right time to make this project happen and I am very pleased with the YOUTH members to get it done,” said District Court Judge Sara Lisznyai. Judge Lisznyai and District Court worked with the HDDC participants to receive a list of their children’s interests. “Part of the drug treatment court is to facilitate change and reward positive behavior; this was a wonderful way to do that. These people are used to different reactions from the court, usually
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Not only did the project make a difference in the lives of the participants, but it made a difference for the program. “This project showed how much the community backs what we’re doing. It helps us build trust with the participants, not to be ashamed but to know we want the best for them,” said Program Director, Brian Hansen. He continued, “It was an awesome opportunity and we were glad you (HCCF) could participate in it.”

HCCF and the YOUTH were proud to be part of the exciting experience.
Hillsdale County Community Foundation 2020 Year in Review

246 NEW Donors

GRANTMAKING
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEEDS & KEY ISSUES
ESTATE PLANNING
ENDOWMENT FUND BUILDING

$941,393.33 TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN

$405,786.42 Community Giving
$535,606.91 Donor Services

$1,182,928.98 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

ENDOWED FUNDS $18,000,286.09

GRANTS AWARDED

UNRESTRICTED $301,947.49
SCHOLARSHIPS $192,560.00
DONOR ADVISED $93,865.02
FIELD OF INTEREST $74,828.77
DESIGNATED $251,761.05
KELLOGG YOUTH ADVISORY FUND $26,431.00

213 GRANTS GIVEN
Financial Highlights

**ASSETS**
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $1,440,371
- Beneficial Interests in Remainder Trusts: 182,013
- Investments: 18,355,206
- Property and Equipment, Net: 324,441

**TOTAL ASSETS**: $20,302,031

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**
- Liabilities: $40,667
- Accrued Expenses: 624
- Grants Payable: 74,754
- Agency Fund Liability: 85,982

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**: $202,027

**FUND BALANCES**
- TOTAL FUND BALANCE: $20,100,004
- TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES: $20,302,031

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**Take Care**

This year, Hillsdale County experienced an uncertain and difficult time, but one anonymous individual took it as an opportunity to spread kindness.

When the shut downs and stay-at-home order was taking place in March and April, one anonymous donor approached Stockhouse Printing and paid to print yard signs that read “Take Care of Each Other.” This anonymous donor then placed the signs all over Hillsdale County, sparking a chain of positive reactions.

Following the initial act, Stockhouse received two more orders to print 80 signs. WCSR put the signs out free for people to take and they were gone within 20 minutes. Stockhouse then received another order and President, David Holliday said, “There’s over 100 signs out there!”

**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 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.

**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, 2020. 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 purposes for giving. Collectively they help the Hillsdale County Community Foundation achieve its mission to make Hillsdale County a better place in which to live, work, and play. We are grateful, honored and pleased to recognize them in the following list.

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