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HCCF Celebrates 30 Years Serving Hillsdale County

THE HILLSDALE COUNTY Community Foundation kicked off its 30th Anniversary this year with a virtual campaign. The online campaign took place June 21st – June 25th on Facebook and featured stories, successes and reflections from the last 30 years in the community. On June 25th, the Foundation concluded the week with an outdoor event on the Hillsdale County Courthouse lawn with free coffee and donuts.

The HCCF was established on June 25, 1991, with a mission of receiving and administering 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.

HCCF President Sharon Bisher reflected on 30 years as a community foundation. "We are excited to be celebrating 30 years in this county. It is a time for us to reflect back on the ways we have been able to make a difference in the community and appreciate everyone that helped us get here."

Since 1991, the Foundation has granted nearly \$10 million to benefit Hillsdale County and awarded \$3.5 million in scholarships to local students and residents pursuing higher education.

Domestic Harmony's Executive Director, Hannah Jordan, expressed her appreciation for the Foundation. "The Foundation has given us numerous grants in their 30 years of service. Domestic Harmony is a better agency because of the work of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation."

HCCF has established and maintained 330 funds for charitable purposes. Mike Nye who is a former HCCF Board Member and current Fund Holder shared his passion for giving back to the community.

"I'm a fund holder and I think it is important for us to be fund holders. It is a legacy. You're leaving something for the community to come back to. To give back to the community that's been so good to me," said Nye.

In addition, 83 community members have served on the Board of Trustees of the **CONTINUED ON 5**

Recent Grant Awards

THE HILLSDALE County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of our fall grant cycles.

A total of \$80,624.00 has been awarded to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit Hillsdale County residents.

- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$35,000 to help assist with gap funding for program continuation. (HCCF Endowment and Emergency Relief Funds)
- Montgomery Fire Department, \$7,224 to assist with costs associated with the purchase of eight 4500 PSC Carbon Cylinder Valve Assembly Bottles. (Ardeth Morse Memorial Fund)
- Litchfield TIFA, \$5,000 to assist with costs associated with the training of underserved individuals for welding, robotics, CNC or machine maintenance. (Paul Leece Fund)

CONTINUED ON 5

DONOR FEEDBACK SURVEY



At HCCF we are constantly listening to our donors, trying to improve our overall donation process. Please scan this QR code on your phone camera or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hccfdonorsurvey> and take this survey to tell us how we can improve your experience!

The Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

THE HILLSDALE COUNTY Community Foundation is honored to have a dedicated community leader join the organization as the newest member of our Board of Trustees. The Community Foundation is pleased to have Zachary Miller, a talented and devoted member of the community, on board.



Zachary Miller

Zachary Miller joins the board from Hillsdale County. Miller came to Hillsdale in 2007 when he enrolled as a student at Hillsdale College. After four years he graduated with bachelor's degrees in History and French Literature, and then began working in the Admissions Office there as an Admissions Counselor. He also served as Director of Field Recruitment for Admissions before beginning his current role, Senior Director of Admissions, in 2015. Miller sits on the Board of Academic Advisors for Classic Learning Test (CLT) and is on the Hillsdale Hospital Membership Corporation. He also is the varsity boys' basketball coach at Hillsdale Academy. Miller is married to the former Heather Lantis of Hillsdale, and the two have a 1-year-old son, Conner, and a golden retriever, Lucy. They reside in Hillsdale.

The Foundation is pleased to welcome Zachary to the Board of Trustees.

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:

- Sarah "Sally" Dimmers Fallon Memorial Scholarship Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to provide an annual scholarship to a female graduating senior of either Reading or Hillsdale High Schools who seeks an education at a two or a four-year college or university. Preference will be given to Reading High School graduates.
- Julie Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to provide up to two \$500 awards to graduating seniors of Hillsdale High School who seek an education at a two or a four-year college or university business, vocational or trade school.
- George and Marian Gier Memorial Scholarship Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to provide an annual scholarship to a Hillsdale County resident who seeks an education at a two or a four-year college or university business, vocational or trade school. Preference will be those applicants pursuing a degree in the fields of Education or Agriculture.
- Creek Valley Farms Stanley and Carol Smith Scholarship Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to provide an annual scholarship to a Hillsdale County resident who seeks an education at a two or a four-year college or university business, vocational or trade school. Preference will be those applicants pursuing a teaching degree in the field of Agriculture or Health and Exercise Science Education.
- Tom Klaus Family Outstanding Wrestling Scholarship Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to provide a \$500 award to graduating senior of Jonesville High School who has participated in the wrestling program and who seek an education at a two

HCCF Awards Scholarship Winners

The Community Foundation has completed another scholarship season. In May, the Foundation announced the 2021 scholarship recipients. This year HCCF received over 2,300 applications and was proud to award 206 scholarships totaling \$227,655 to 135 students pursuing higher education.

The Foundation will be hosting a college fair this fall on Monday, October 4 at the Searle Center on the campus of Hillsdale College. The event will include colleges and universities from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio along with representatives from the armed forces.

In addition to speaking with colleges and universities, the college fair will be the first opportunity to obtain the HCCF Scholarship Book. The Scholarship Book outlines all available scholarships and eligibility requirements. The Foundation currently holds over 125 scholarship funds from which students can apply for assistance. The 2022 deadline for applications is March 1. If applicants have any questions, they may contact the HCCF at (517) 439-5101. Information is also available online at www.abouthccf.org.

or a four-year college or university business, vocational or trade school.

- Jon "Mike" and Betty Fast Jonesville District Library Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to establish an endowment fund, whose income will be used to support the Jonesville District Library.
- Jon "Mike" and Betty Fast Jonesville First Presbyterian Church Fund—The purpose of this Fund is to establish an endowment fund, from which the income will be used to support the Jonesville Presbyterian Church.

Emergency Relief Fund Recipient Spotlight

IN 2020, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation created the Emergency Relief Fund to address the immediate needs of our most vulnerable community members during the COVID-19 crisis. With these funds, HCCF had the opportunity to make emergency grants to local non-profits responding to the emergent needs in Hillsdale County. In total, HCCF awarded \$106,000 to Hillsdale County area organizations to support their relief efforts.

Due to COVID-19, many organizations and non-profits were unable to carry out their regular fundraising and events. Among the organizations who received funding was Hillsdale Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The CASA program is an organization of volunteers who work with children in foster care and advocate for their best interests in court. They offer the children consistency and give them a voice in court. "Hillsdale CASA runs completely off of grants and donations," said Executive Director Heather Upton, "we were recently told that we are losing our federal grant, which accounts for roughly 58% of our budget, effective October 1 2021."

The loss of fundraising created a gap in funding, which CASA needed to keep its programs running. Through the Emergency Relief Fund, HCCF was proud to award CASA with a \$10,000 grant to cover the costs expenses associated with the program. The costs include rent, utilities, supplies, volunteer and staff training, advertising and tools needed to keep the program up and running and safe. HCCF was pleased to support such an important non-profit in this community whose work will continue to make significant impacts in the lives of the children.

Upton shared she was excited to receive the funding. "With the help of the foundations emergency funding



Need caption

we will be able to keep our program running while working to identify long term funding. I am extremely thankful for the foundation. They are a true blessing to Hillsdale County."

The Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund also supported education during their time of need. In the summer of 2020, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation proudly partnered with Hillsdale Hospital to support area schools in returning to school. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the schools were faced with new guidelines and regulations. In response to these increasing needs, HCCF was able to provide Hillsdale County schools with a \$60,000 grant to cover the costs of sanitizing stations, thermometers, gloves, sprayers and cleaning supplies to ensure both students and staff can safely return to school. In addition, HCCF provided \$20,000 to Hillsdale Hospital to cover the costs of sanitizer and facemasks.

As plans for the 2020-2021 school year were being put into place, Hillsdale Hospital, the Hillsdale County ISD, the local health department and the Community Foundation worked together to form join task force. The group collaborated to work through

various issues and solutions within the county when it came to returning. Since the beginning, the task force has continued to meet to make an impact in education.

Hillsdale Hospital CEO Jeremiah Hodshire shared how thankful he was for the Community Foundation during the time of the funding: "We have faced the most unprecedented time of our history—the pandemic of COVID-19. It has gone through our community like it has every other community in America. And we were not any different in what we suffered in our losses, but what different is the response of our community—the Community Foundation and their generosity to our hospital and to our community. I reflect upon the contributions that were made for schools to receive hand sanitizer, masks just the opportunity for the Foundation to provide PPE and other support for our schools so that our children could remain safe—a safe environment for our teachers to teach and for our children to learn."

In the midst of a difficult time for our community, HCCF was proud to be able to support those organizations that make an impact. HCCF also thanks those who donated and supported the Hillsdale County Emergency Relief Fund.

Hillsdale County Community Foundation

Celebrating 30 Years



Reflections...

Looking back to move forward.

\$10 Million in Grants

\$3.5 Million in Scholarships

\$21 Million in Contributions

\$24.5 Million in Assets

Thank you Hillsdale
County for impacting
this community for 30
years!

2 S Howell St. Hillsdale



www.abouthccf.org

HCCF Hosts the Great Give

HILLSDALE County residents came together at the Hillsdale County Community Foundation's Great Give to make it a great day of giving. As a community, donors demonstrated the importance of generosity through acts of giving. Together, The Great Give brought in \$144,192, including public donations of \$119,192 and bonus pool funds from the Community Foundation totaling \$25,000.

On December 1, The HCCF hosted the Great Give on Giving Tuesday, a globally recognized day that aims to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy through giving. Although socially distanced, families, individuals, and businesses came together to make a difference in Hillsdale County.

The Great Give took place at a new location this year, 182 W. Carleton Drive in Hillsdale. Throughout the day, several local non-profits had the opportunity to collect donations on location and connect with each other. In addition to public donations, each year the Community Foundation comes up with ways for participating agencies to earn bonus funds. New this year, HCCF provided incentives for "pre-giving", meaning gifts received prior the Great Give event.



The 2020 Great Give participants celebrate a successful day of giving.

During the day, the participating non-profits could receive donations from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. With the event being closed to the public, online gifts were encouraged this year using the HCCF website, www.abouthccf.org. Gifts were also received through a new drive-thru option at the new location. In total, 658 contributions were received throughout the day.

The following agencies participated in The Great Give: CAPA, CASA, Domestic Harmony, The Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Helping Hands PRC, 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.

30 YEARS CONT. FROM 1

Foundation and over 250 young people have received leadership training and opportunities as YOUTH (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) members since its beginning. HCCF has also played a significant role in several projects, initiatives and programs throughout Hillsdale County.

"I love being a part of the Foundation, and I am privileged to serve as the current Board Chair. It allows me to

give back to this community that I love so much and to be part of something bigger than myself," Says HCCF Board Chair Karlye Horton.

Sharon Bisher has been able to serve as the President for the past 21 years. "This Foundation is a result of individuals coming together to impact our community in a positive way. In thanks to our donors, fund holders and community supporters, our footprints can be seen in various places throughout our county."

RECENT GRANTS CONT. FROM 1

- Williams Elementary School, \$1,000 to assist with costs associated with the purchase of a water refill station. (Jonesville Area Fund)
- Bankers Baptist Church, \$2,400 to assist with costs associated with the purchase of food for the Fresh Food Initiative. (General Mills Fund)
- Friends of Lake Diane, \$20,000 to assist with costs associated with phase II: heating & cooling, water well, sewer, and kitchen & bath finishing. (Mildred Hawkes Barber, Lavern & Robin Barber Haynes and HCCF Endowment Funds)
- Knights of Columbus, \$10,000 matching funds to support Helping Hands with the purchase of an ultra sound machine. (Ingles Family and HCCF Endowment Funds)

The Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale) have awarded a total of \$22,060.00 to area schools for projects or programs to benefit young people in Hillsdale County. The following organizations were awarded funding through the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund:

- Hillsdale CASA, Inc., \$10,000 to help assist with gap funding for program continuation.
- Hillsdale County Intermediate School District: Great Start Collaborative, \$5,000 for the costs associated with child care provider licensing through the Great Start Collaborative Pathway to Licensed Care.
- Hillsdale County Intermediate School District: Great Start Collaborative, \$2,060 for the costs associated with the supplies for the Great Start Collaborative PLAY pickup events.
- Hudson First United Methodist Church, \$5,000 for the costs associated with the Backpack Buddy Program for Pittsford and Waldron students.

www.abouthccf.org



Hillsdale County

community foundationSM

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Impacting Education!

206 awards
135 students

\$227,655.00

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!