



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck North  
CHAIR

Gary Beach  
VICE CHAIR

Chuck North  
TREASURER

Kelly Lantis  
SECRETARY

Maxine Vanlerberg  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Keegan Oxley  
YOUTH TRUSTEE

Shea Dow

Joseph Draper

Jared Jordan

Zack Miller

Laura Nevins

Mike Roberts

Mike Smith

Kayla Thompson

## Susan Stout Announces Retirement

**SUSAN STOUT** will be celebrating her retirement after a remarkable 19-year tenure at the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, where her "job" turned into a career.

Since 2005, Stout has been impacting our community through her work on various community initiatives. Susan spearheaded the Hillsdale County Warm the Children program that provides essential winter clothing for children in our county. She has initiated various educational programs, including the Hillsdale County College Fair, and managed the scholarship program

from 2005 to 2021. Her oversight of numerous grant programs, such as Healthy Senior Healthy Youth, Love Your Community, and the library grant program, continues to enrich the lives of the people living in Hillsdale County. In 2024, she received the "Friend of Education" award from the Gamma Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Key Women Educators, recognizing her program development and leadership. According to Stout, "I have had the privilege to know both givers of money and the receivers of the services and I appreciate the heart of them all. I hope I have made an impact in a few of the lives of those I have met along the way."

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation proudly recognizes Susan Stout for her exceptional dedication and invaluable contributions to the welfare of the people in Hillsdale County. Congratulations on your retirement, Susan!



## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER 21

Hillsdale County  
College and Career  
Fair  
6:00 p.m.  
Hillsdale College  
Margot V. Biermann  
Athletic Center

### NOVEMBER 1

Y.O.U.T.H. Grant  
Applications Due

### NOVEMBER 1

General Grant  
Applications Due

### DECEMBER 3

Great Give Event  
(Giving Tuesday)

### MARCH 1

Scholarship Application  
Deadline

## New Funds of the Foundation

- **Charles C. Aschbrenner and Chris T. Spencer Fund** – a designated fund that provides financial support to four designated charities on a rotating basis.
- **Jon "Mike" and Betty Fast Family Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship for a graduating senior from either Hillsdale Academy or Jonesville High School who will be attending a four-year college or university leading to a bachelor's degree.
- **Amy Salyer-Nicholls Memorial Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship created for graduating seniors of Camden-Frontier Schools.

CONTINUED ON 4

## 2023-2024 Unrestricted Grants - \$298,533.00

- **Friends of the Dawn Theatre** for 2023 Scenes from the Nutcracker performed by the Chelsea Ballet – \$1,500.00
- **Non-Profit training** for area agencies – \$8,890.00
- **Warm the Children** program support – \$10,000.00
- **Greater Hillsdale Humane Society** to help control the pet population by offering spay and neutering services – \$10,000.00
- **Early Pregnancy Loss Association** for their miscarriage medical relief program – \$7,500.00

CONTINUED ON 7

# 2024 Y.O.U.T.H. Fill-The-Freezer Event

**THE 2024** Y.O.U.T.H. Fill-The-Freezer Event was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. Twenty Y.O.U.T.H. members invested \$10,000 to provide fresh meat, paper products, hygiene items, and food to four area food pantries and Domestic Harmony.

## Agencies Served:

- Current Church Food Pantry: 2211 West Bacon Street, Hillsdale. Fresh Food Initiative on Tuesdays from 9:00 am - 11:00 am.
- Domestic Harmony: An emergency shelter providing food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to victims of abuse and assault.
- Kings Kupboard Food Pantry: Trinity Lutheran Church, 69 Griswold Street, Hillsdale. Hours: October-April: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 3:30-5:30 pm. May-September: Monday & Friday, 3:30-5:30 pm; Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 pm.
- The Salvation Army: 160 East Bacon Street, Hillsdale. Food Pantry Hours: Monday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (by appointment) and Friday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (walk-in). Fresh Food Initiative: Tuesday 10:00 am - 11:30 am.
- Waldron First Church of Christ Food Pantry: 107 West Street, Waldron. Serves low-income families in the Waldron school district on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Proof of low income and address required.

This event highlights the Y.O.U.T.H.'s dedication to supporting their community and ensuring those in need have access to essential resources.



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

**THE DEADLINE** for 2025 scholarships in Hillsdale County is **Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** Applications will be available online in December 2024. To apply, please visit our website at <http://www.abouthccf.org> to create an online account.

HCCF is proud to offer scholarships for a variety of students and career interests, including two- and four-year degrees, as well as scholarships for those pursuing careers and certifications in the trades. Scholarships can cover costs such as tuition, fees, textbooks, room and board, or other equipment.

At HCCF, you complete one application to be eligible for several awards. Take advantage of this opportunity to ease the financial burden of your education and invest in your future.

## IRA Giving

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation provides a range of giving options designed to suit the unique needs of our community members. For individuals over the age of 70 ½ years, one of the best options for saving on taxes is making a gift from an IRA through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Donors over 73 years of age can even have their gift count towards their required minimum distribution (RMD) that would otherwise be taxable income. This giving option helps ensure that your IRA funds can support your local community without giving up control through potentially heavy taxes. If you are interested in donating from your IRA, please contact your account administrator. We also encourage you to talk to a tax professional to learn more about how a gift from your IRA will affect your taxes. Please notify the Foundation of your wish to donate from your IRA so we can ensure your gift is designated to the fund (or funds) of your choice. If you have any questions about giving from your IRA, please give us a call @ 517.439.5101.



# Love Your Community Grant Awards

This year, the Grant Committee selected several Love Your Community projects, which were subsequently approved by the HCCF Board of Trustees. The Love Your Community initiative was developed to support projects and programs aimed at enhancing and engaging communities. Eligible projects include community beautification efforts and initiatives that promote community improvement, interaction, or engagement. This program aims to foster a stronger, more vibrant community through innovative and impactful projects.

The following 2024 projects were approved:

- \$3,700.00 was awarded to the Village of North Adams for ballpark improvements. The village plans to pour a concrete slab under the bleachers at the local ballpark.
- \$3,900.00 was awarded to Hillsdale County to make roof repairs to the pavilions at Lewis Emery Park.



## Y.O.U.T.H. Grants Impact Hillsdale County Schools and Non-Profits

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Y.O.U.T.H. awarded \$51,983.00 in grants to Hillsdale County schools and non-profits whose programs and projects impact children from birth to the age of 20.

- **Gier Elementary School** for creating a Sensory Library - \$500.00
- **Waldron Area Schools** for Peer 2 Peer Hygiene Kits - \$500.00
- **Jonesville High School Quiz Bowl Team** for expenses - \$420.00
- **Warm the Children Program** for area children - \$5,000.00
- **Will Carleton Academy** to establish an after-school Yearbook/Photography Club – \$4,042.00
- **Jonesville High School Library** for A Comet Community Conversation - \$1,017.00
- **North-Adams Jerome Community Schools** for new volleyball carts and volleyballs - \$500.00
- **Jonesville High School National Honor Society** for their youth holiday cookie decorating event - \$281.00
- **HCISD - Hillsdale Area Career Center Criminal Justice Program** for the purchase of Kevlar safety vests - \$5,100.00
- **HCISD - Hillsdale Area Career Center Cybersecurity Program** for students to compete in the BPA State Leadership Conference - \$500.00
- **Reading High School Art Department** for a field trip to the University of Michigan Art Museum - \$500.00
- **Gier Elementary School** for the Science Olympiad competition - \$160.00
- **Camden-Frontier Schools Marching Band** for performance raincoats - \$1,800.00
- **County Kids 4H (MSU Extension/ Large Animal)** for electronic updates and equipment to the Expo Fair Building for animal sales - \$5,100.00
- **Department of Health and Human Services** for summer camp scholarships for children in foster care to attend Camp Michindoh or Kimball Camp - \$6,500.00
- **North-Adams Jerome Community Schools** for a stage curtain safety upgrade - \$5,000.00
- **Camden-Frontier Schools** to create a free Youth Locker with new or gently used clothing and hygiene items - \$2,000.00
- **Theatre for Youth** for their next musical theatre production - \$5,000.00
- **Gier Elementary School** for their Guys with Ties Program - \$500.00
- **HCISD - Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative** for their Talking is Teaching initiative - \$6,600.00
- **Montgomery Fire Dept.** for Backpack Program - \$963.00



## NEW FUNDS CONT. FROM 1

- **Dustin Hale Family Donor Advised Fund** – a scholarship created in memory of Dustin Hale which will be awarded to a graduating senior or alumni of Jonesville High School.
- **Greater Hillsdale Humane Society Endowment Fund** - a designated fund created to support the operations of the Greater Hillsdale Humane Society.
- **Judy and Richard Hale and Family Donor Advised Fund** – a scholarship awarded to a Jonesville High School graduating senior who is planning to attend any post-secondary education institution with a focus in one of the following fields: agriculture, education, health services or social services.
- **Hornet Vocational Scholarship** – a scholarship for a graduating senior of Hillsdale High School pursuing a vocational certification or trade.
- **Charles Bianchi Memorial Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship for a Hillsdale County resident who seeks an education at any post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to applicants seeking a degree in either the medical or business field.
- **Will Cramer Memorial Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship for a graduating senior of Pittsford High School who seeks an education at any post-secondary institution. Recipients must have lettered in one varsity sport.
- **Deputy Bill Butler Family Fund** – a fund created to support the family of Deputy Bill Butler who lost his life serving the people of Hillsdale County.
- **Litchfield Congregational Church Fund** – a designated fund created to support the Litchfield Congregational Church.
- **Litchfield Historical Society Fund** – a designated fund created to support the Litchfield Historical Society.
- **Frank Bechler Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship for a Hillsdale County resident who is currently attending or will be attending a two-year community college, trade school, emergency services training academy, or vocational school. Preference will be given to students pursuing certification in trades such as HVAC, electrical work, plumbing, or emergency service professions like firefighting, police, or EMS.
- **Coach Craig Blanchard Memorial Scholarship Fund** – a scholarship for a graduating senior from either Hillsdale High School or Jonesville High School who plans to pursue a four-year degree in education, coaching, or a sport-related major. Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated passion for athletics and a desire to pursue a career in coaching.
- **Linda Bryant-Solomon Memorial Scholarship Fund** - a scholarship for a graduating senior or alumni of Pittsford High School who seeks an education at any post-secondary institution.
- **Jonesville Lions Club Scholarship Fund** - a scholarship for a graduating senior or alumni of Jonesville High School, who seeks an education at a any post-secondary institution. Applicants must also be a Hillsdale County resident.
- **Edward L. Kunesh Agricultural Scholarship Fund** - a scholarship for a resident of Hillsdale County who seeks an education that will lead to a career in the agricultural industry.
- **Trisha White Scholarship for Veterinary Careers Fund** - a scholarship for a graduating senior or alumni of Pittsford High School who seeks an education at a two or a four-year college or university that will lead to a career in veterinary medicine.



## 2024 Hillsdale County Day of Service

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, twenty-six volunteers from Y.O.U.T.H., HCCF staff, and the Board of Trustees participated in the Hillsdale County Day of Service. This event saw a total of 435 volunteers contribute 1,305 hours across 31 projects.

The Day of Service was a collaborative effort between the Hillsdale County Community Foundation and the Hillsdale College GOAL Program. Its goal was to unite the community through shared service, fostering a strong sense of unity and collective achievement.



# the GREAT GIVE



Giving Day 2024

## Hillsdale County Community Foundation to Host 10th Annual Great Give Tuesday, December 3, 2024

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation will celebrate on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, by sponsoring the largest day of giving in Hillsdale County at The Great Give.

Please plan now to support our local non-profit agencies. We make it easy for you to donate:

- Pre-giving: Monday, November 4, through noon on Monday, December 2, there are three ways to donate to your favorite non-profit agency.
  - *Drop off:* 9:00-noon or 1-4:00 p.m. at 2 South Howell Street, Hillsdale
  - *Mail to:* PO Box 276, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
  - *Donate online:* [www.abouthccf.org](http://www.abouthccf.org)
- Day of the Event: Tuesday, December 3, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the HUB Activity Center, 1300 South Hillsdale Road, Hillsdale. There will be drive through and drop off options for donors at the HUB Activity Center Building.

The HCCF is encouraging Hillsdale County residents to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy by donating to our local nonprofits. Funds from a bonus pool will be distributed and awarded by the HCCF to agencies during The Great Give.

### Participating Organizations Include:

Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness (CAPA), Current Church Food Pantry, Domestic Harmony, Early Pregnancy Loss Association (EPLA), First Church of Christ Waldron Food Pantry, Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Great Start Collaborative of Hillsdale County, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center, Hillsdale CASA Inc., Hillsdale County Community Foundation, Hillsdale Community Theatre – DBA The Sauk, Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, Inc., Hillsdale Hospital, Hospice of Hillsdale County, Kimball Camp Outdoor Center, Kings Kupboard, Love INC of Hillsdale County, St. Peter's Free Clinic, The Salvation Army





## HCCF Y.O.U.T.H. Class of 2024

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our seniors who have served on the Youth Advisory Council. Youth Opportunities Unlimited Throughout Hillsdale (Y.O.U.T.H.) members make a significant difference in our community. The Y.O.U.T.H. have a voice in addressing community needs and are creative in planning projects to support awareness, community service, volunteerism, and fund development.

- **Tydann Cooney** – A graduate of Camden-Frontier Schools, Tydann served on the YAC for three years and is attending massage therapy school in Adrian.
- **Hallie James** – A graduate of Jonesville High School, Hallie served on the YAC for five years and is attending Eastern Michigan University to pursue a career as a teacher.
- **Maria Mandrelle** – A graduate of Jonesville High School, Maria served on the YAC for five years and is attending Michigan Technological University to study chemical engineering.
- **Jack Thielen** – A graduate of Will Carleton Academy, Jack served on the YAC for four years and is currently completing the Early Middle College program and then he will attend

either MSU or Purdue to pursue a career in an agricultural-related field.

- **James VanCamp** – A graduate of Will Carleton Academy, James served on the YAC for four years and is attending the University of Michigan to pursue a career in computer science.

We want to thank these five seniors for their contributions to the Y.O.U.T.H. program.

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



# Introducing Charles



Charles Holbrook joined our team in March 2024 as a Development Officer after serving as the Director of Advancement at Carson-Newman University in East Tennessee. Charles is no stranger to Hillsdale County; he is a proud graduate of Hillsdale High School and Hillsdale College. Upon graduating from the College, he received his Master of Education degree from Tiffin University. He is excited and well-prepared to support and advance the mission of the

Foundation and meet the unique needs of the people of our county. Charles, his wife, Kathryn, and their daughter are extremely happy to call Hillsdale home.



## Board Member Appreciation

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation is honored to recognize Trent Morris for his nine years of dedicated service to the Board of Trustees. Trent's commitment to the Foundation was evident through his tireless efforts in reviewing thousands of scholarship and grant applications, offering invaluable insight to these critical processes. His thoughtful contributions have helped shape the Foundation's impact on the community, and we are deeply grateful for his service. Thank you, Trent, for your dedication to HCCF and to the future of Hillsdale County!

### GRANT AWARDS CONT. FROM 1

- **Hillsdale College G.O.A.L. 2024 Day of Service** - \$7,615.00
- **Funding incentives for the Great Give event** - \$32,000.00
- **Camden United Methodist Church** for fresh food initiative - \$3,000.00
- **Hillsdale County Agricultural Society** for fireworks in support of July 3rd event - \$12,000.00
- **DAR for County Revolutionary War Monument Project** - \$4,000.00
- **Reading Emergency Unit for LUCAS 3, CPR Compression System** - \$22,880.00
- **Kimball Camp for Safety Equipment** - \$14,600.00
- **Village of North Adams** for park improvements - \$2,000.00
- **Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness** for safety campaign - \$700.00
- **Mrs. Stock's Park Celebration in the Park** - \$14,000.00
- **Hillsdale County Historical Society** for maintenance and repairs to historical buildings at the Poorhouse property on Wolcott - \$27,183.00
- **Litchfield Rotary** for the food pantry from V. Ennis Wright Fund - \$1,800.00
- **Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale** for mental health counseling - \$20,000.00
- **Friends of the Dawn Theatre** for 2024 Scenes from the Nutcracker performed by the Chelsea Ballet - \$2,130.00
- **Hillsdale County Agricultural Society** for photography building maintenance from the McCall Building Fund - \$6,500.00
- **Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center** for materials and equipment for hosting Fatherhood Classes - \$5,000.00
- **Waldron District Library** for new books and programming at the library - \$5,000.00
- **Hillsdale Hospital** towards the purchase of a new Echocardiogram Machine - \$50,000.00
- **Hillsdale County Intermediate School District** for the Standard Response Protocol Training for ALL 1,100 Hillsdale County educators and staff, SRO, City Police, County Sherrieff employees - \$12,000.00
- **Kings Kupboard - Trinity Lutheran Church,** fresh food initiative, \$5,000.00
- **Crossroad Farms** support from the Hodshire Family Fund - \$5,000.00
- **Hillsdale County Central Dispatch** to support Safety Campaign - \$8,235.00



**Hillsdale County**

**community foundation**<sup>SM</sup>

P.O. Box 276  
2 South Howell Street  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
517.439.5101 **PHONE**  
517.439.5109 **FAX**  
info@abouthccf.org **EMAIL**  
www.abouthccf.org **WEB**

**For good. For ever.®**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLDWATER MI  
PERMIT NO. 71

## MEET THE STAFF

**Sharon Bisher**, PRESIDENT/CEO. . . . . s.bisher@abouthccf.org  
**Susan Stout**, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS . . . . . s.stout@abouthccf.org  
**Mindy Eggleston**, PROGRAM DIRECTOR. . . . . m.eggleston@abouthccf.org  
**Charles Holbrook**, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. . . . . c.holbrook@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!

## Board of Trustees – New Members



**Keegan Oxley** is a senior at Hillsdale High School. He has been a member of the Y.O.U.T.H board for the past five years and serves as the Y.O.U.T.H. Trustee on the HCCF Board of Trustees. At Hillsdale High, Keegan demonstrates his commitment to service and leadership as the president of Kiwanis Key Club. He is a member of the Freshman Mentor Program and serves as the Student Body Secretary. Keegan

also participates in the National Honor Society and Future Corps. Outside of school, Keegan dances at the Academy of the Arts and is a member of the Jackson Dance Company's senior ballet, jazz, contemporary, and tap companies. Keegan plans to major in dance at Wayne State University.

**Kayla (Foust) Thompson** is a native of Hillsdale and dedicated community member who currently serves as the Executive Director of Gift & Estate Planning at Hillsdale College. She earned her high school diploma from Hillsdale High School, her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan, and her Juris Doctor from Wayne State University. Kayla is a licensed attorney with the State Bar of Michigan.



Kayla is married to Matt Thompson, a PGA Professional and coach of the Hillsdale College Men's Golf Team. Together, they have three children. Beyond her professional role, Kayla is actively involved in her church, the Rotary Club, Hide n' Seek Child Study group, and the City of Jonesville Zoning Board.