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# Community Citizens Promoting A Better Community Forever

Spring 2011

## Stacy Chaput has joined the board of directors of the foundation.

A native of Big Rapids, Stacy sold real estate for 10 years before recently deciding to focus on her family and community work.

She's an active volunteer with St. Mary's School and has worked with the United Way, Paint the Town Pink, the Post Office Garden Committee and Spirit of the Season. Stacy is a Ferris State University graduate and an alumni of the Leadership Mecosta program.



Stacy is married to John Chaput, president of Big Rapids Products. They have two daughters, Avery and Myah.

"I'm pleased to join the foundation board and I'm excited to further my involvement in the community," she said.

Foundation President Scott Hill-Kennedy said he is excited to have Chaput join the board. "People are really starting to notice how generous she has been with her time and talents," he said. "She is a hard worker, organized, and is demonstrating leadership in a number of ways."

Chaput replaces Kim Von Kronenberger, who has moved from the area.

## Foundation Vice President Tim Zehr was recently named 2010 Citizen of the Year by the Pioneer for his leadership on the foundation's match day event last fall.

The event raised more than \$253,000 for area non-profits.

The foundation raised \$65,000 to match donations from people throughout the county towards their favorite charity.



"Tim was the driving force behind Match Day," said then Foundation President Gary Trimarco. "Without his leadership, that event probably wouldn't have come to fruition," he said. "It was one of those things where there's a seed and everybody just helped that thing grow," Zehr said. "How does a community this small generate over a quarter of a million dollars in one day? It gives testimony to the people and the community we live in," he said.

Tim recently retired after 32 years with Meijer, most recently as the store director in Big Rapids. **Congratulations Tim!**

## POLAR PLUNGE...BRRRR!!!!

Foundation president Scott Hill-Kennedy and past president Gary Trimarco braved the chilly weather and frigid waters of Chippewa Lake in February to raise money for Special Olympics.

About \$20,000 was raised by 70 brave Polar Plungers.

Yankee fan Trimarco challenged Tiger fans on the board to join him at the plunge and Hill-Kennedy met the challenge!



Scott and Gary next in line, wearing their team colors, and ready to take the plunge.



Wow is that cold! Scott reacts to the freezing water.



Gary showing off his jumping ability before splashdown.

## SPRING MEANS SOCCER!!! NORTHLAND UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Having completed Phase I of its work in totally reconstructing the soccer fields at River Street Park, the Northland United Soccer Club will soon complete Phase II (the final phase) of its work. Having observed the good use of funding by Northland Soccer as it excavated, leveled, installed an irrigation system, and seeded in Phase I, much to the delight of many youth soccer players and those that care about them in our community, the Foundation is pleased to provide additional funding for Phase II, which will be used for additional irrigation work, re-seeding, and leveling that in part will allow for a smooth connection of the River Street Park soccer fields with the extended Riverwalk. Northland has significantly improved the playing experience and safety for our soccer players and continues to spark a significant interest in youth soccer in our community.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello Friends. Here it is Spring (kind of) and we are already well into our calendar year 2011 Foundation work, which includes planning for the next iteration of Mecosta County Match Day activities. We were all inspired by our wonderful community efforts for our Mecosta Match Day activities from last fall. And of course, as a result, we have no shortage of inspiration to partner with you again to make sure that in 2011 we again raise a lot of money for the many important community needs that so badly need funding. We look forward to working with you to fill the funding gaps wherever we can.



Scott Hill-Kennedy

Personally, I was also inspired by Gary Trimarco and his excellent leadership of our Foundation over the last two years. Gary is a generous man, and a man of action who certainly knows how to motivate, organize, and just get things done. His spouse Lynne Trimarco shares those same fine qualities. They are good friends to many, including my spouse Merrilee and me. I also know that Gary was inspired by the leadership of other generous and talented individuals who have really given the Foundation some very positive momentum. Thank-you Gary and everyone for caring about our community and supporting it so wonderfully. We are grateful. Let's keep it going.

One of those talented and generous individuals who has done so much, unfortunately for our community, has moved. Kim Von Kronenberger served the Foundation and his community with great distinction and with modesty. We are happy for Kim and his family as Kim moves to take a well-earned promotion, but he will be greatly missed in Mecosta County.

On a lighter note, I thought with age came wisdom. Well, Mr. Trimarco and yours truly proved to the contrary. It was one of those back-and-forth challenge scenarios over several days, where each of us kept telling the other "I will do it if you will". Finally some remnants of youth (o.k., immaturity) and a bit too much competitiveness came through and we just did it because neither of us wanted to be called a great big chicken by the other. The result was (and this is where the age part comes in) that Gary was the oldest person to plunge through the ice into Chippewa Lake as part of Special Olympics of Michigan Polar Plunge. I plunged, too, and am not so young either. But please do not worry about the well-being of your Foundation; irrespective of age, others on the Foundation Board do consistently demonstrate maturity and wisdom, and because of this, despite the fact that the Polar Plunge is a great fund-raiser for Special Olympics, rest assured that the Foundation has no plans that include ice, cold, water, snow, bathing suits or even snakes, spiders, fire, heat or the like in any of its fundraising activities.

Finally, maybe we do have a good example of where wisdom comes with age, albeit of the youthful variety. The wisdom is found in the high school students who serve on the Mecosta County Youth Advisory Council, which is a part of our Community Foundation. These smart, talented, and organized students constantly demonstrate the best in philanthropy through their personal donations, fund raising, and provision of grants to so many worthwhile activities in our county. The excellent high school seniors on the Council who soon will graduate are Hannah B. (MCYAC President), Kramer M. (MCYAC Vice-President), MaryRose C., Rachel W., Courtney K., Nicole M., and Tyler H. They will be missed by us all but particularly by our Board colleague Deb Patterson who gives so much of her time to support MCYAC activities and the students involved. Thank-you seniors and Deb. There is no doubt that these seniors will make many significant positive contributions to their communities throughout their lives.

Have a Wonderful Spring.

Scott Hill-Kennedy

## MECOSTA COUNTY FOUNDATION

Period Ended February 2011

	Net Assets Feb. 28, 2011
Scott D. Anderson Memorial Scholarsh	38,763
Artworks: Big Rapids Area Arts & Hum	15,043
Barry Barratt Scholarship	12,895
Charles R. & Marian D. Beadle Advised	24,294
Big Rapids Realty Advised Fund	20,334
Harold Boerma Eagle Scout Scholarship	17,382
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Endowment	12,315
Class of 1974, Linda Willette Scholarship	18,785
Sarah Marie Comer Memorial Fund	31,065
William F. DuBois II, MD & Catherine DuBois	12,116
Feeding Mecosta County	(4)
Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library	141,926
A. Donald and Susan H. Grant Advised	11,080
Healthy Youth and Seniors - Mecosta	37,189
Horticulture and Technology Scholarship	11,578
Lake-Osceola State Bank Community Support	23,826
Dennis Lerner Advised	37,147
Lerner, Csemal & Fath Financial Group	25,598
Little Kevin Hockey Hope Fund	51,488
MCYAC Hope Scholarship Fund	66,334
Mecosta County Community Fund Administrative	412
Mecosta County Community Foundation General	550,019
Mecosta County Special Project	7,238
Mecosta County Medical Center Foundation	18,042
Mecosta County Habitat for Humanity	15,512
Mecosta-Osceola Great Start	18,466
Mecosta-Osceola United Way Fund - MCCF	15,562
Michcon Legacy Fund for Mecosta-Osceola United Way	99,124
Mildred A. Miller Swede Hill Park	165,152
Robert D. Miller Scholarship Fund	26,001
Ben Mondrella Memorial Fund	46,693
Morley Stanwood Education Association Scholarship	13,176
Alyce Peterson Fund for Project Starburst	106,380
Riverwalk Endowment	181,214
Riverwalk Fund	13,422
Rotary Club of Big Rapids	37,228
The Schinderle Fund	126,711
Schuberg Designated for Immanuel Lutheran Church	21,208
Schuberg Designated for St. Mary's Catholic School	137,688
Alice Stephenson Schuberg	32,728
Carl A. Schuberg Fund	22,859
Shamrock Invitational	120,907
Solid Ice - Endowment	346,672
Solid Ice - Flexible	273
Spirit of the Season - Endowment	139,535
Spirit of the Season - Flexible	1,113
St. Mary's Elementary School Education Enrichment	10,955
Scholarship Fund for St. Mary's School	12,772
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church	57,530
St. Peter's Lutheran School	15,361
STAGE-M Leon Keys Memorial Fine Arts	11,927
Jenine Stickler Memorial	19,526
Ken and Aletha Sutherland Family Scholarship	27,940
Ken & Aletha Sutherland Family Fund for Tamarack District Library	14,426
Ken & Aletha Sutherland Family Fund for Wheatland Township Library	14,426
Jacob & Gertrude VanDyke Scholarship	102,830
Women's Information Services, Inc.	46,572
Youth Endowment Fund of Mecosta County	298,537
<b>Total Mecosta County Community Foundation</b>	<b>3,505,293</b>

## "GROWING UP GIVING"

Providing for our children not only involves ensuring that they are clothed, have roofs over their heads, and food in their stomachs, it also requires that families supply a sense of appreciation for their gifts, monetary and otherwise, and the desire to share those gifts with others. Encouraging our children to share and give are among the core values we as parents attempt to instill in our children at an early age.

Many of us can remember missionary "globe" banks from Sunday school, collecting door to door for UNICEF, or perhaps giving a Christmas gift to another child less fortunate. When these were rewarding experiences, the years to follow graduated into giving and fundraising for school events or youth activities. One of the greatest joys in family giving is watching a new generation of family members come into their own as philanthropists. The families that have the most success in engaging new philanthropists are those that prepare family members in giving in general.

The Mecosta County Community Foundation provides many opportunities to continue the legacy of family giving within the community in which we grow up and live. Our website [www.mecostagives.com](http://www.mecostagives.com) highlights information on specific funds, the general community fund, as well as contact information should your family or corporation elect to start a fund of your own. Online giving is also available.

Cultivating generations of giving provides for a bright future for all of us!

## MCYAC NEWS

MCYAC recently hosted an Activities Extravaganza night at the Big Rapids High School. The event was open to all high school students in Mecosta County. Students were invited to participate in basketball, dodge ball, board games, including Wii and socializing. Students who brought canned goods to the event were given a chance to win prizes from local businesses.

MCYAC students from Big Rapids, Chippewa Hills, Crossroads Charter Academy and Morley Stanwood >



Rachel, Jere and Courtney see who can build the biggest house of cards!



MaryRose, Kramer and Kate display some of the food items that were donated by students at the Activities Extravaganza >



Check out the new Mecosta County Community Foundation website at:

[www.mecostagives.com](http://www.mecostagives.com)

Please make the new website one of your "favorite" web pages to stay informed about foundation grants, scholarships, events and much more. You'll see what organizations benefit from your generosity. You'll hear testimonials, learn about your board of directors and even have the ability to donate online!