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Community Citizens Promoting A Better Community Forever

Summer 2011



MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Maria Michel (R) and Emily Tassoni (L) both of Big Rapids High School have each received multiple scholarships from the Mecosta County Community Foundation. They're shown along with MCFF Scholarship Committee Member Bob Stanton.

Michel is going to the University of Michigan to study nursing, while Tassoni will attend Michigan State to study pre-med. Both young women earned a Jacob & Gertrude VanDyke \$1000 scholarship, and a Linda Willette Class of 1974 \$1000 scholarship. Michel also earned the Barry Barratt \$500 scholarship.

For a full list of scholarship winners, please see page 3.

CHECK OUT THE MCCF 2010 ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE AT WWW.MECOSTAGIVES.COM

MECOSTA COUNTY ... A GREAT ASSET

The role of developing assets within Mecosta County Community Foundation takes on more responsibility than just increasing the value of its funds within the Foundation. It includes developing assets within the community that improve the quality of life for all. Working together as a community to enrich the many assets within our community is the cornerstone of the Mecosta County Community Foundation.

Last year MCCF was able to grant many dollars to our Mecosta County community through the normal grant process that takes place each year. Additionally, MCCF hosted a match day event for qualifying non-profits in the fall of 2010 that increased the assets of these organizations significantly. Increasing the assets of the foundation is important for our community. Increasing assets in our non-profit family is also very important.

This is good work that needs to go on every day and every year. Our foundation is committed to being a key player in this effort. Keep watching our website at www.mecostagives.com for upcoming opportunities to get involved in developing our communities assets. You never know what we may do next!



Dr. Edward Mallett accepts a grant for \$2,980 for "A/V equipment for the Tuba Bach Chamber Music Festival" from Mecosta County Community Foundation President Scott Hill-Kennedy.



Jodi Daum, (L) representing Chippewa Hills High School, accepts \$978 for two grants. The first grant is for an "iPad Connection in the Classroom" and the second for a MCYAC mini-grant for a the program "Projectile Motion". Mecosta County Community Foundation member, Yo Bellingar delivers the check!



THE MECOSTA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S "GENERAL FUND" IS NO MORE.

The fund, in which unrestricted gifts help fund important community needs each spring and fall during our two grant cycles is now more aptly named the Community Needs Fund.

"The term 'general' didn't speak to the fund's true purpose, MCFF President Scott Hill-Kennedy said. People hear general fund, and think administrative fund that's not the case with this fund."

Earnings on assets in the Community Needs Fund gives the Foundation flexibility to respond to community needs as they arise. The Foundation is able to fund grant requests to numerous organizations twice each year as the greatest needs of the community dictate at the time.

"In this challenging economy we're trying to grow the Community Needs Fund so we can do more good work and help more people," Hill-Kennedy said.

Additionally, donors who wish to establish a named, designated fund can do so with earnings earmarked for the Community Needs Fund.

For more information on establishing a fund, please contact Administrative Executive Robyn Stratton at 810-938-0803 or via email at rstratton@mecostagives.com

On behalf of Big Rapids Public Schools, Nick Scheible (right) accepts a grant for \$2,500 for the "Pay to Participate Fee Scholarship Program" from Mecosta County Community Foundation members Tim Zehr & Debbie Patterson.



Mecosta County Community Foundation President Scott Hill-Kennedy presents Diane Long, from Project Starburst, with a grant for \$1,500 to be used for "Client Gasoline Vouchers."



Mecosta County Senior Center director, Claudia Lenon, accepts a \$4,000 grant to help build a "Pole Barn for Agency Vehicles" from Mecosta County Community Foundation member Dave Hamelund.



How many times have we all read or used some gardening or livestock theme, some racing terms, or some outdoor or sports metaphor to make a bit more interesting some of the things we human beings do? For example, instead of simply stating that you invest in your community by investing in your community foundation you might jazz it up a bit by saying we plant the sapling, water it, fertilize it, and nurture it over many years until it grows into a strong and mighty tree that eventually will protect and nurture future generations. Some may think this is better than simply noting that if you put your money into a Mecosta County Community Foundation endowment its earnings will be spent in perpetuity to help our community in a big way.



Scott Hill-Kennedy

Personally, I say why mess with the real story, which is really great. First, we have a whole lot of interesting people doing a lot of interesting things in our community, for the benefit of our community. These are exciting and worthwhile no matter how you describe them. And you know what? Some of them really, truly do involve sports and the outdoors and gardening and racing without pretending--Girls on the Run; the Rose Lake Youth Camp; the Community Garden; the Polar Plunge; Camp Tuhsmeheeta; Cran-Hill Ranch; Camp Wilderness; Camp Brethren Heights; day camp at School Section Lake; the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts hiking, camping, and fund-raising; the Post Office flower bed, growing giant pumpkins; the Susan B. Wheatlake Cancer and Wellness Walk; the Shamrock Golf Invitational; The Barryton Mobile Food Pantry; Relay for Life; the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Voyage of Discovery; the Celebrity Harness Race; 4-H Club projects, shows, and sales; and on and on and on. These are activities that raise money, keep people healthy, raise people up from challenging circumstances, and make Mecosta County a good place to live. There is no need to embellish.

And no embellishment is required as we look to what will follow. Many generous folks have already put some serious money into your community foundation earmarked to support our big 2011 end-of-the year activity. We plan to provide a percentage match to your charitable giving and to grow our Community Needs Fund, which is our flexible endowment used to address current needs as they arise. Remember, last year our end-of-the-year event put more than \$250,000 in charitable giving into the community. We plan to have a similar impact this year. You will hear a lot about the event in the coming months.

Even as we look forward, it is so very important to remember our past. I am sorry to report that Lois Reitz passed away earlier this year. Ms. Reitz taught science at Big Rapids Middle School, was instrumental in establishing the Swede Hill Fund and the Retired Seniors Volunteer program (RSVP), and was an early and outstanding Foundation board member. Lois, thank-you for all that you did for your community.

Finally, there is also a first-rate group of individuals to the north of Mecosta County. These individuals support and direct the activities of the Osceola County Community Foundation. They have a wonderful new office in the Reed City Depot and just about doubled the size of their foundation's endowments because of a generous bequest recently received. Congratulations and best wishes to our northern colleagues as they do great things in Osceola County.

Please enjoy the summer, and as you garden or farm or walk or golf consider how you might help with the interesting business of keeping your community strong now and in the future.



MECOSTA COUNTY FOUNDATION

Period Ended April 2011

Mecosta County Community Foundation Period ended April 2011

Scott D. Anderson Memorial Scholarship	40,123
Artworks: Big Rapids Area Arts & Humanities	15,570
Barry Barratt Scholarship	13,347
Charles R. & Marian D. Beadle Advised	25,146
Big Rapids Realty Advised Fund	21,048
Harold Boerma Eagle Scout Scholarship	17,992
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Endowment	12,747
Class of 1974, Linda Willette Scholarship	19,444
Sarah Marie Comer Memorial Fund	32,155
William F. DuBois II, MD & Catherine DuBois	12,541
Feeding Mecosta County	-4
Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library	146,905
A. Donald and Susan H. Grant Advised	11,474
Healthy Youth and Seniors - Mecosta	38,494
Horticulture and Technology Scholarship	11,984
Lake-Osceola State Bank Community Support	24,662
Dennis Lerner Advised	38,450
Lerner, Csernai & Fath Financial Group	27,512
Little Kevin Hockey Hope Fund	53,294
MCYAC Hope Scholarship Fund	68,661
Mecosta County Community Fund Administrative	588
Mecosta County Community Foundation Community Needs	565,696
Mecosta County Special Project	7,238
Mecosta County Medical Center Foundation	18,675
Mecosta County Habitat for Humanity	16,056
Mecosta-Osceola Great Start	19,122
Mecosta-Osceola United Way Fund - MCCF	16,108
Michcon Legacy Fund for Mecosta-Osceola	102,602
Mildred A. Miller Swede Hill Park	170,945
Robert D. Miller Scholarship Fund	27,001
Ben Mondrella Memorial Fund	48,331
Morley Stanwood Education Association Scholarship	13,638
Alyce Peterson Fund for Project Starburst	106,557
Riverwalk Fund	13,422
Riverwalk Endowment	187,571
Rotary Club of Big Rapids	38,534
The Schinderle Fund	125,591
Schuberg Designated for Immanuel Lutheran Church	21,952
Schuberg Designated for St. Mary's Catholic School	137,143
Alice Stephenson Schuberg	33,876
Carl A. Schuberg Fund	23,138
Shamrock Invitational	125,149
Solid Ice - Endowment	358,836
Solid Ice - Flexible	273
Spirit of the Season - Endowment	144,430
Spirit of the Season - Flexible	1,113
St. Mary's Elementary School Education Enrichment	10,869
Scholarship Fund for St. Mary's School	12,714
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church	59,549
St. Peter's Lutheran School	15,900
STAGE-M Leon Keys Memorial Fine Arts	12,346
Jenine Stickler Memorial	20,211
Ken and Aletha Sutherland Family Scholarship	28,920
Ken and Aletha Sutherland Family Fund for Tamarack District Library	14,933
Ken and Aletha Sutherland Family Fund for Wheatland Township Library	14,933
Jacob and Gertrude VanDyke Scholarship	106,437
Women's Information Services, Inc.	48,206
Youth Endowment Fund of Mecosta County	302,637
Total Mecosta County Community Foundation	3,602,782

MCYAC CLASS OF 2011

- Courtney Kennedy – Chippewa Hills
- Maryrose Cook – Big Rapids
- Tyler Havens – Morley Stanwood
- Nicole Mumah – Morley Stanwood
- Hannah Bennett – Crossroads Charter Academy
- Rachel Wood – Chippewa Hills
- Missing from photo – Kramer Milan – Big Rapids



MCCF 2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Scholarship	Name	Award	Current School	Future School
Scott D Anderson FSU	Taylor Cox	\$500	FSU	FSU Manu Engin
	Brady Lafrinere	\$500	FSU	FSU Welding Engin
Scott D Anderson M-S HS	Kristine Abbring	\$500	M-SHS/MOCC	MOCC Cosmetology
	Pamela Altizer	\$500	M-SHS	FSU PrePharmacy
Barry Barratt	Maria Michel	\$500	BRHS	UofM Nursing
Harold Boerma Eagle Scout	NONE			
Horticulture & Technology	Taylor Cox	\$500	FSU	FSU Manu Engin
Robert D. Miller	Tyler Engstrom	\$1000	RCHS/MOCC	FSU Mechanical Engin
Morley Stanwood Education Association	NONE			
Alice Stephenson Schuberg	Kelsey Bunce	\$1500	BRHS	FSU Elementary Educ
Ken & Aletha Sutherland	Brittany Simon	\$750	CHHS	CMU Physical Therapy
	Hannah Brummeler	\$1000	CCA	UofTenn Pre Dental
Jacob & Gertude VanDyke	Tiffany Medler	\$1000	FSU	CMU Physical Asst
	Maria Michel	\$1000	BRHS	UofM Nursing
Linda Willette Class of 1974	Emily Tassoni	\$1000	BRHS	MSU PreMed
	Wade Wells	\$1000	RCHS	North Mich Un Athletic Tr
Linda Willette Class of 1974	Maria Michel	\$1000	BRHS	UofM Nursing
	Emily Tassoni	\$1000	BRHS	MSU PreMed

16 Scholarships Awarded - \$13,250.

2 Scholarships Not Awarded - \$950.

MCYAC EXECUTIVE TEAM 2011- 2012

- President, Levi Mehl – Big Rapids
- Vice President, Alyssa Nelson – Morley Stanwood
- VP Alternate, Tim Cairnduff – Morley Stanwood
- Treasurer, Kyle Brady – Big Rapids
- Secretary, Kate Backus – Big Rapids
- Hope Scholarship Chair, Kate Backus – Big Rapids
- Grant Committee Chair, Erica Frisbie – Crossroads Charter Academy
- Communication Director, Kolhton Johnson – Chippewa Hills

MECOSTA COUNTY YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2011-2012

- Kate Backus, Erica Frisbie, Peter Wissink, Hannah Bennett, Kyle Brady, Sahira Cosby, Maryrose Cook, Kramer Milan, Levi Mehl, Callee Stirn, Rachel Wood, Courtney Kennedy, Jere Barret, Kohlton Johnson, Nicole Mumah, Tyler Havens, Alyssa Nelson, Brianna Wiersema, and Tim Cairnduff

APRIL 2011 MCYAC GRANTS

- Chippewa Hills School District –**
IPAD for math classrooms - \$ 499.00
- Rose Lake Youth Camp –**
Waterfront improvements & camp scholarships - \$ 1,000.00
- Big Rapids Public Schools –**
Pay to Participate Sports Scholarships Program - \$ 2,500.00
- District Health Department #10 –**
Girls on the Run Program - \$ 2,000.00
- Chippewa Hills School District –**
Mini Grant for classroom – Projectile Motion - \$479.00

