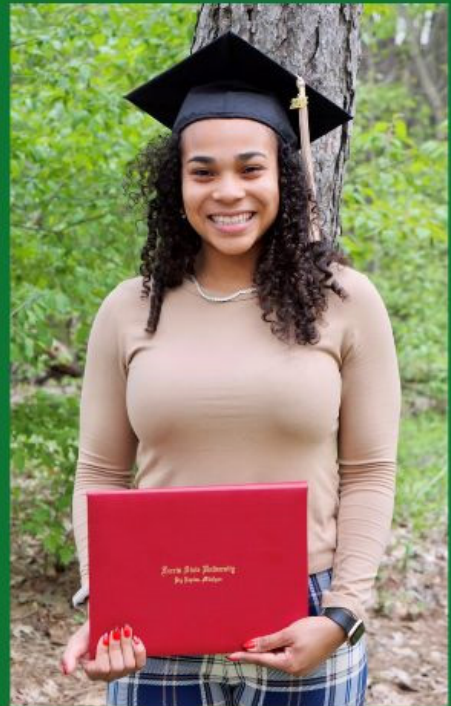


Summer 2023

# BRAG BOOK



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# Community Foundation

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Est. 1944

# CONNECT WITH US

Community Foundation  
of  
St. Clair County

## Call

810 - 984 - 4761

## Email

[info@stclairfoundation.org](mailto:info@stclairfoundation.org)

## Find us online

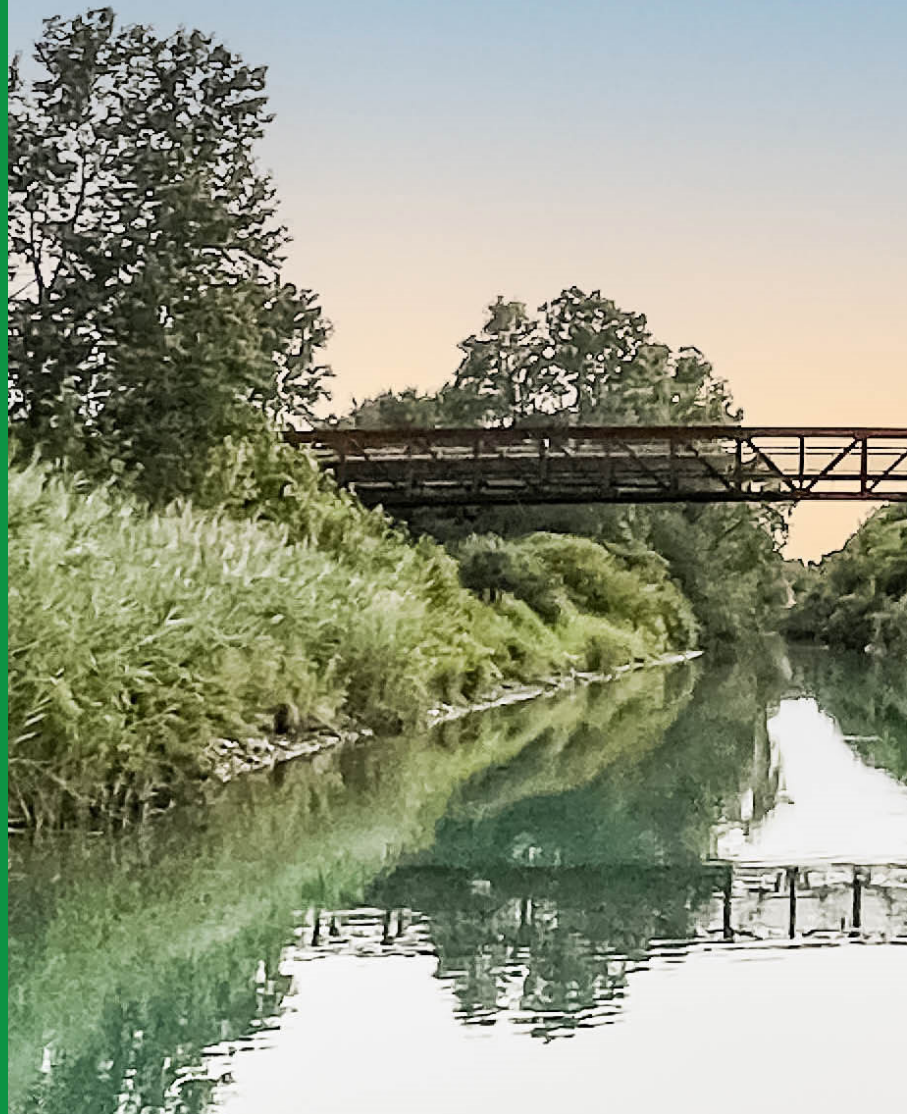
For more information on our  
giving center, scholarships,  
and grants,  
please visit our website at:

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

## MORE WAYS TO CONNECT

[Facebook](#)

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We are incredibly *GRATEFUL* to our partners and friends who generously donated to the Campus and Canal Bridge. What a beautiful addition to the Bridge to Bay Trail!



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## Community Foundation

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of St. Clair County

James C. Acheson Fund  
Blue Water Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau  
Thomas & Wendy Johnston  
Knowlton Foundation Fund  
Kusch Family Fund  
Michigan Mutual, Inc.  
St. Clair County Commissioner Jorja Baldwin

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McNutt Family Fund  
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Port Huron Schools  
Drs. Sushma & B. Ramesh Reddy  
Rod & Colleen Smith  
Drs. Bashar Samman & Randa Jundi-Samman

# For 25 years the John W. & M. Louise Shier Family Fund has been helping those most in need

July 17, 2023



The John W. & M. Louise Shier Family Fund has provided support for families in St. Clair County since 1998. The Community Foundation celebrates their lifelong commitment to the service of others here in the Thumbcoast as their impact continues today through their donor advised fund.

“The Foundation will be a good steward of your gift, invest the funds wisely, grow the principal and maximize its use to fulfill the intent of your gift,” wrote Franklin Moore, Jr. in a letter to John and Louise after opening their fund 25 years ago.

In the last 25 years, 18 different nonprofit organizations have received nearly \$80,000 from Shier Family donor advised fund. Because the Shier Family Fund is endowed, the grants will continue and will grow over time.

John and Louise started their donor advised fund with a very generous \$101,000 gift. That first gift has grown to nearly \$143,000 while also providing \$80,000 in grants back into the community.

The Shier’s had a strong desire to provide for basic needs, ensuring their family could help those most in need. Their grants have gone to organizations like Blue Water Community Food Depot, Blue Water Developmental Housing, Mid City Nutrition, People’s Clinic for Better Health, Blue Water Safe Horizons, Salvation Army Port Huron, The Arc of St. Clair County, Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home, the Council on Aging, and Visiting Nurse Association & Blue Water Hospice.

These various nonprofits used their grants to provide support services like housing, medications, food, equipment, disaster relief, and financial relief for our local populations who are homeless, special needs, or requiring extra support due to illness or aging. As both John and Louise were born less than a decade before the Great Depression, they came from a generation that understood a need for support due to hardships beyond a person’s control.



John was drafted into the Army after much of his youth saw the struggles of the financial collapse during the depression. Seemingly overnight, he was reassigned from the engineering program to combat infantryman in Patton's 3rd Army. He served in the European Theatre in Luxembourg and Prague during the Battle of the Bulge, Czechoslovakia until the German surrender in 1945. His bravery earned him a Bronze Star during these campaigns.

When John came back to Michigan to complete his engineering degree, he married the love of his life, Louise Binkley. They remained happily married for 65 years. She was by his side during his lengthy career at Acheson Colloids Company, where he served as an executive vice president after various other roles in the company from 1950-1998.

John was very active in local community affairs, helping to organize the first ever Silver Sticks Hockey Tournament and serving as board member for the YMCA, Mercy Hospital (now Lake Huron Medical Center), and the Community Foundation.

“As our board chairman in the 1980s, John transformed the foundation to be able to handle larger gifts and increase our ability to support projects, making him one of the most influential names in our area history,” said Randy Maiers, President of the Community Foundation.

John was a natural leader who was described as loyal, honest, hardworking, and a true gentleman. He was part of the Foundation for 50 years as a board member, donor and advisor, the longest serving member in the Foundation's history. “He laid the groundwork for where the Foundation is today,” said Maiers.

At home, Louise managed their household and raised the couple's six children: Michael, Nancy, Dianne, Susan, Patti, and John Junior. Once while crossing the Ontario border in a station wagon with all six children, she was asked by the Customs Agent, “Are those all your children or is this a picnic?” Recalled well for her sense of humor, Louise responded, “They are all mine and it ain't no picnic.”

While their children kept her busy, Louise devoted her life to the service of others alongside John. Described as a creative, determined, and elegant lady, Louise was a positive mentor who led by example. She was dedicated to helping the developmentally disabled, receiving many awards for her involvement in a wide variety of humanitarian programs, organizations, and foundations and one of the founding members of the first group home in St. Clair County. A devout Christian, one of her favorite biblical quotes was “whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto me.” Her life reflected that commitment, and she is remembered as a woman who gave 100% to whatever she was involved in.



John and Louise Shier were fiercely committed to faith, family, and friends. Their strong support of the local community was evident in their words, actions, and financial contributions. Their philanthropic efforts improved our healthcare, housing, recreation, and education during their lifetimes and now beyond through the John W. & M. Louise Shier Family Fund.

# Knowlton Spy Exhibit

**THANK YOU!**

The Kindergarten Classes at Avoca Elementary appreciate your generosity. The students had a long list of favorite moments after visiting the Spy Museum. See for yourself!



June 10/12/23  
 Dear Community Foundation Members,  
 Thank you for giving our third grade classes the opportunity to visit the Spy Exhibit. It was very generous of you to provide money for our admission cost and our bussing. My favorite part of the exhibit was the laser room.  
 Thank you again,  
 Nathaniel



Tory  
 Mason  
 Ashlyn  
 Noah  
 Ryan  
 Mitchell  
 Randie  
 Lillian K.  
 Ava  
 Gailo  
 Hailey  
 Kayleigh  
 Quier  
 Phelan  
 Aubria  
 Dakota  
 Mya  
 Scott  
 Ben  
 Andrew  
 Aubree  
 Ashlyn  
 Evan  
 Alaina H  
 Gunter  
 Aban  
 Thanks

We had the best time at the Spy Exhibit! Thank you for the special opportunity. :)

Avoca Elementary  
 4th Grade

Mrs Harris  
 McLeod



Mason.m

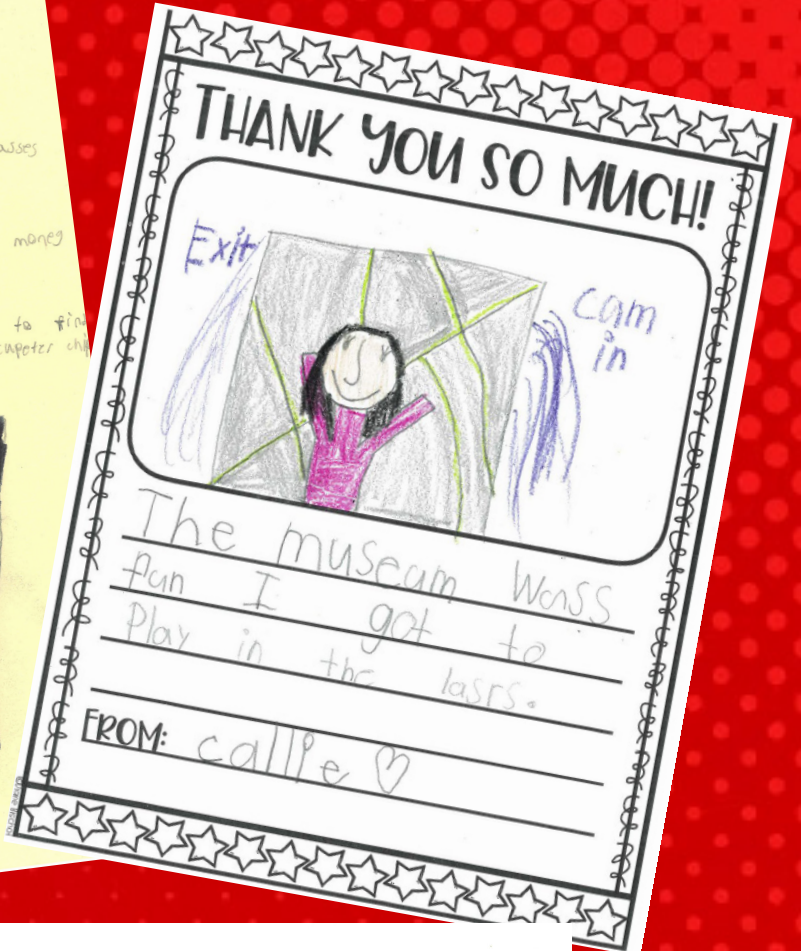
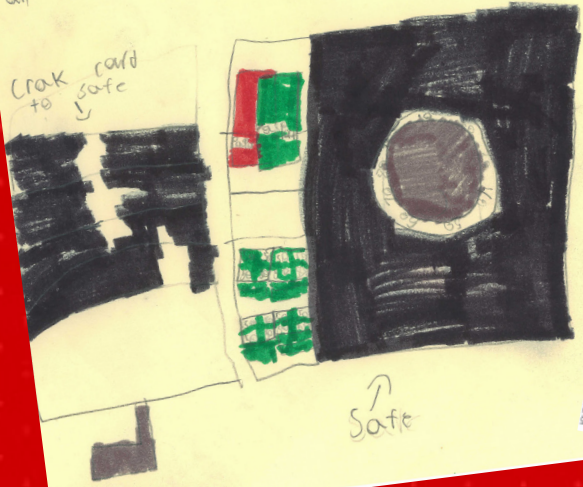
June 1, 2003

Dear Community Foundation members,

Thank you for giving our third grade classes the opportunity to visit the Spy Exhibition.

It was very generous of you to provide money for our admission cost and our bussing.

My favorite part of the exhibition was to find all of the clues to find out who stole the capote ch...



Thank you for giving our third grade class the opportunity to visit the "SPY Exhibition!" It was very nice of you to do that for us. My favorite part was going to the SPY museum. Thank you again from the "Avoca Elementary 3rd grade class." ☺

# Field Trip Thank you's



**MI New Favorite Snack Competition helps  
Emme's Plantain Chips succeed**



## July 12, 2023

Nurse Emme Ekanem of Wyoming, Michigan, was your typical mother of four, looking for a healthy snacking alternative for her family.

She looked back on her childhood memories of growing up in Nigeria, where plantain chips are a common – and healthy – snack. She went into the kitchen and started peeling plantain.

So, in October of 2020, Ekanem officially launched Emme's Plantain Chips, an all-natural, gluten-free, crunchy chip alternative to potato chips.

In September 2022, Ekanem's healthy snack alternative was validated when she was named second-place prize winner in the 2022 MI New Favorite Snack Competition held in Port Huron, Michigan.

The MI New Favorite Snack Competition, now in its second year, aims to provide capital to a few micro-businesses based in Michigan this September, with more than \$75,000 in cash prizes on the table. Applications for the 2023 competition are still being accepted. The deadline for entering was recently extended to July 14, 2023. There is a \$100 fee per entry. The competition will take place in Port Huron on September 9, 2023.

The \$15,000 in prize money allowed Ekanem to purchase much-needed production-enhancing equipment. "Winning \$15,000 in the competition enabled me to purchase a plantain peeler machine," she said. Prior to making this purchase, Ekanem had been peeling all plantain by hand.

To create her tasty treat, Ekanem peels plantain, cooks it in olive oil and seasons the chips with various herbs, thus producing multiple flavors. For the past three years she has sold four popular flavors and she plans to enter the 2023 MI New Favorite Snack Competition with a brand-new flavor.

"Hopefully, my business will attract additional capital to obtain a facility for expansion of my business," she said. "My experience with the 2022 MI New Favorite Snack Competition was great. I was so impressed with the feedback from the people who sampled my plantain chips. Many people reached out to me after the 2022 competition. It exposed my business in a positive way."

During its inaugural year, the MI New Favorite Snack Competition attracted more than 50 snack makers from across both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan and awarded more than \$50,000 in prize money to five award winners. The grand prize winner also received a distribution agreement with All Star Services, a Break Room Services company based in Port Huron.

Companies must meet the following requirements to be eligible for participation:

- Must be a Michigan Micro-Business (10 employees or less)
- Must carry the appropriate licensing and insurance
- Must be headquartered in Michigan
- Must have appropriately packaged product available for consumer purchase

The Top 20 Finalists will be announced the week of July 31.

All competitors that register for the 2023 competition, regardless of whether or not they are a finalist, will be invited to participate in the MI New Favorite Snack exhibition, giving them access to event attendees who can sample and/or purchase packaged goods. Only the top 20 finalists are eligible to win prize money and the title of "MI New Favorite Snack 2023."

This year's event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 9 at the McMorrان Plaza in the heart of downtown Port Huron. Judging will take place from 10 to 11 a.m., and the event will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS



The Sheriff Dannelon Foundation,  
Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of this scholarship. This will help take some stress off of me while I pursue my passion of baseball. It will also help me chase my dream of becoming a state trooper and follow my dad down the road of law enforcement.

Thank you,  
Jeff

Thank you so much for the very generous LaMere Scholarship. This will help me greatly with paying for college. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

-Sophie Vogler





St. Clair County Community  
Foundation

I feel Honored and Grateful  
to have been selected as a  
recipient of the Howard A.  
Acheson Memorial Fund I want  
to thank you for your generosity  
in funding this scholarship. It  
is a great help to me financially.

Thank you for the support  
you provide to students

With gratitude,  
Peter Vitale

feel honored to have received this scholarship.  
I will be a sophomore at Michigan State  
University this fall. I am studying Communicative  
Sciences and Disorders and I hope to become  
a Speech-Language Pathologist. This scholarship  
is a huge help in pursuing my education. I was  
also a recipient last year, and I am so honored  
to receive it again. I achieved a 4.0 GPA after  
my Freshmen year, and was on the Deans list both  
semesters. Thank you so much for this scholarship,  
I will continue to work hard in pursuing my education.

COACH Sincerely,  
Kate Lossing

To the generous donors  
and members of the  
Community Foundation,

Thank you for making  
such a huge impact on  
my (and so many others)  
journey through the process  
of going to college. Without  
the help and support  
from you guys, my career  
and education goals  
would be simply unattainable.  
This wouldn't be possible  
for me without you.

Thank you,  
Shelby Benthal

To the Community Foundation  
of St. Clair County,

I am so grateful for  
all the donors who put  
time and money into something  
so important to me.

Thank you so very much.

I can't thank you enough  
for choosing me for the  
Fuller Hanson Educational  
Trust Fund Scholarship. I  
can't wait to start my  
next chapter at Grand Valley  
State University. Thank you  
for helping me achieve  
success in that next chapter!  
I'm forever grateful to you!

Sincerely,  
Katerina Weaver

To the contributor(s) of the Howard  
Acheson Memorial Fund,

Thank you so much for your  
generous contribution towards my  
education expenses! I am so grateful  
to be a recipient of Howard Acheson's  
Memorial Fund. It is a weight off my  
back knowing that such a large portion  
of my tuition is being covered. I am  
so lucky to have received aid. I wish  
the donor(s) of this fund success in  
all their future endeavors. Your  
generosity means so much to me, and  
will not be forgotten.

Best,  
Emily Enderby

# 192 scholarships awarded totaling \$478,765 = heartfelt thank you notes from future leaders



Thank you

Nicholas Berman  
Columbus, Michigan  
Major: Mechatronics engineering  
Class Standing: Good standing

Dear Howard A. Acheson Family,

Thank you for choosing me as a repeat recipient of your families memorial scholarship. My father still owns his own business and my mom still works at Marine City Middle School as a librarian. Two of my favorite hobbies are working with mechanical systems and electrical systems. Both of these hobbies are what has led me to decide to become an engineer at Kettering University.

My major at Kettering University used to be Mechanical Engineering but I have since changed it to the Mechatronics program. Mechatronics is hidden inside the Industrial Engineering program as a "Bachelor of Science in Engineering" degree. While I didn't join any of the SAE teams at the school, me and a few other students have started a music club at the school and I have become a member of the T-Space Leadership and hope to keep both positions into the future.

Being able to keep this memorial scholarship will relieve some of the financial stress on my family and will help to pay for things that aren't tuition based such as books, required subscriptions, supplies, and food. I am excited to be returning to Kettering University and your family's memorial scholarship is helping make this possible. Thank you for your generosity and I look forward to making your family proud.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Berman

Dear St. Clair County Community Foundation and the Fuller Hansen family,  
I wanted to send my thanks for the generous scholarship that each of you have provided me. I greatly appreciate the trust you've placed in me to best utilize this award. As I continue my education, and eventually my career in psychiatry, my goal is to make a positive impact in our community. Thank you for helping me get one step closer.

Best regards,  
Sophia Nash

Dear Donors,

I want to thank you for the Father Rene Desmarais & Sister Margaret Dowd Scholarship Fund. Without scholarships, the cost of pursuing a degree would be extremely difficult for me. I just want you to know how much I appreciate it because scholarships make my college experience so much easier; I've got enough aid where I don't have to pay for tuition, and I have some left over to use on textbooks and other supplies which is immensely helpful. I looked up Father Rene and Sister Margaret, and I'm honored to be given a scholarship in their name while learning about their love and dedication to their communities. Thank you once again for all the support. It lifted a lot of stress off my shoulders from a financial standpoint; I appreciate everything.

Danielle "Dani" Liebetreu

*Danielle Liebetreu*



Thank you so much!  
your generosity is greatly appreciated! Thank you for helping me continue my education at SUNY Brockport, I'm heading into my senior year and I'll be graduating with an exercise science degree. I am forever grateful for your help. Thank you for making it possible!!!

-Emily Justa ♡

*And may it all come back to you.*





It's great to know  
the world is full of  
such generous people...

like you.

Thank you so much for selecting  
me for the Christian & Agness Haas  
Scholarship! It truly means so  
much to me as I have a long and  
expensive schooling journey ahead  
of me to become a CRNA.

Sincerely,  
Chloe Kue ☺

To Community Foundations,  
I would like to express my  
appreciation by helping pay my  
funds for college. God put you  
guys in place in for a reason.  
I am beyond grateful and  
thankful for the help you  
put forth. It does not go  
unnoticed. Helping pay toward  
my college tuition helped  
put my mind at ease  
knowing it was one less  
thing to stress about. God  
works in mysterious  
ways and I'm glad he  
led me to the help I  
needed. So thank-you from  
the bottom of my heart!

Thanking God for you.  
EPHESIANS 1:16 NLT

Thank You  
So Much,

Brynn  
Meadows



Fuller Hanson Educational  
Trust Fund Donor,

Thank you for donating  
this generous award! As a  
recipient of this award,  
selected by the St. Clair  
Community Foundation, I'm  
very grateful for your  
donation. Next fall I plan  
on attending Boston College,  
and your donation will  
support me in this next  
step of my education  
immensely.

Thank you again!  
Ava Pellegata

Dear Scholarship Donor,

I feel honored and grateful to have been  
selected as a recipient of the St. Clair  
Foundation Fund. I want to thank you for  
your generosity in funding this scholarship.  
It will help me greatly when paying my  
college expenses at Michigan Technological University.  
I hope that sometime in the future I will  
be able to financially help students going to  
college like you did for me.

Sincerely,  
Ian Pinnoo

# Community Foundation increases commitment to college students

July 19, 2023

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County has been managing endowed scholarships since the mid-1980s and is the region's largest provider of scholarship funds. In recent years, however, the Community Foundation has moved its focus beyond just helping graduating high school seniors get a good start to college, and is more strategically focused on long-term college support and success.

“It's been a complete mind-set change,” said Hale Walker, board chair of the Community Foundation. “Starting back in 2017 with our Complete Your Degree Program we began to adopt a philosophy of focusing more on college success, and renewable funding.”

In this current cycle of awards, getting ready for the start of the 2023/24 school year, the Foundation had 300 applications for 35 different endowed scholarship funds – 179 recipients have been selected so far, and represent a mix of graduating high school seniors and returning college students. Of those recipients, 37% have received scholarships from the Community Foundation in the past.

“College gets more expensive each year for a student,” Walker added. “So, we want to help our donors support students throughout their college career with funds that are easily renewable.”



One such example is first-generation student Praewa Montross, who is entering her third year at Michigan State University. The St. Clair High School graduate is pursuing double majors in English and Human Biology with a minor in Spanish.

“The on-going support from the Community Foundation is something that gives me comfort and reassurance towards pursuing my education, especially when college can be a huge financial burden,” Montross said. “The scholarships I've received have allowed me to take part in professional and academic opportunities that, without the Community Foundation, would have been unattainable due to financial constraints.”





She is following a pre-med track as she plans to apply to medical school after earning her bachelor's degree. Over the past three years, she has received \$8,500 from the St. Clair Foundation Fund,

Randy Sugars Memorial Fund, and Little Brothers, Little Sisters Scholarship Fund.

Montross said this support has led to transformative opportunities such as her recent semester studying abroad in Thailand, which she chose as a meaningful way to connect with her roots as her mother is Thai, that equipped her with invaluable skills and lifelong memories.

“When I was in the earlier stages of my application, the Foundation showed me an incredible amount of kindness as they wanted to know if there was anything they could do to help financially,” she said.

“Ultimately because of their help, I was able to spend the semester in another country.”

While some of the scholarship recipients have taken advantage of short-term opportunities to travel, the majority decided to continue their studies in Michigan. A handful chose to pursue a post-secondary education out of state in Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, Utah and Ontario, CA.

Another first-generation college student (34% of this year's recipients are, meaning their parents have no college degree) who decided to stay in Michigan is James DeVolder.

DeVolder will be returning to Kettering University for his senior year, where he studies mechanical engineering with a concentration in automotive engineering design. He is currently working his sixth rotation at his co-op with Lear Corporation in Southfield, and is starting to plan out his senior thesis project before he returns to school.

Since 2020, he has received \$18,500 from the Howard A. Acheson Memorial Scholarship Fund and St. Clair Foundation Fund, as well as other wraparound support from staff.

Going to college can be a stressful time, and having a support network such as the Community Foundation gives me an added level of confidence that everything will work out,” DeVolder said. “The support from the Community Foundation is great to have, and has been a huge part of being successful in college.”



Before this year is over the Community Foundation expects to commit over \$500,000 towards its broad range of scholarship programs, which also in recent years has added life needs support to students struggling to make ends meet outside of the classroom.

“The response from our donors to these changes has been wonderful,” Walker added. “And I encourage local residents, businesses and families to think about joining the Community Foundation in our efforts to reduce student debt and focus on long-term success in life.”

# A new model for daycare and early childhood education

June 12, 2023



Our region is celebrating one of our biggest successes in quite some time. I'm not talking about the latest manufacturing plant, trail, waterfront development, or downtown amenity – although we've had some great successes in those areas lately!

Our region is celebrating a success that should be a model for communities throughout Michigan – it's the opening of the new Blue Water Area Warm World Childcare & Education Campus at the former Eddy Elementary School in St. Clair, Michigan.

This new childcare and education campus will open up 109 new slots for young children ranging from 6 weeks to pre-school. By comparison, since last fall our entire region has only added 63 new slots. It's by far the most number of new childcare slots our region has added at one time since Port Huron Schools opened the state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center in 2018.

Like most of Michigan and the Country, the lack of daycare slots is practically a crisis which is a tremendous burden on parents trying to find affordable daycare so they can go to work. Here in this part of Michigan, our regional Blue Meets Green Coalition, along with this Community Foundation, has identified the lack of daycare slots as a top strategic priority.

At the same time, school closings around the state are presenting significant challenges to neighborhoods and communities. Thus – a perfect opportunity! Convert these closed schools into privately run, mixed-use developments featuring a significant allocation of space towards this new Childcare & Education Campus. But here's where the learning and best practices needs to come into play. Leadership in Lansing, from our elected officials, to the Governor's office, to the MEDC and their licensing department, needs to come to St. Clair together, meet with Josh Chapman and his team from the YMCA, and truly listen to their front-line experience and overly lengthy process to open this facility.

Our region has rallied around this project and the leadership of Josh Chapman and our YMCA. Philanthropy has played a major role in this project, and does here and throughout Michigan. We have to be at the table to help address the shortage of daycare slots. At the same time however, the State of Michigan should explore ways to fast-track approvals for large and experienced providers such as a YMCA. We cannot afford to go another 6 years before we add another 100+ daycare slots. Our economy can't wait that long. So here it is, an open invitation; Come to St. Clair – bring everyone; ask questions, listen, learn, and then adapt to a new world.







FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

August 4, 2023

Mr. Randy Maers  
Community Foundation of St. Clair County  
500 Water Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Randy:

You represent the Power of Us!

Thank you for your generous donation to the YMCA of the Blue Water Area's 2023 Open Arms Annual Campaign. Your commitment to the Y has a direct and positive impact on our friends and neighbors, because of your support we are able to help build people.

How do you build a person?

- By helping a child overcome a fear of water and learning the life-saving skill of swimming
- By helping a woman with cancer rebuild the strength to lift her granddaughter become a confident young person

**100% of your gift helps us build people right here in our community.**

Your gift of \$3,286.00 for items off our Summer Wish List was processed in our office on August 4, 2023. Please accept this letter as the documentation required by the IRS for your tax deductible charitable donation. No goods or services were received in exchange for your contribution other than the joy of giving to an organization that strengthens our community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We are an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

When we build people, we build a better community for all.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Chapman*  
Joshua Chapman  
President/CEO

*Thank you!  
Michelle*



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**PRESIDENT/CEO**  
Joshua Chapman

Thank you!

YMCA OF THE BLUE WATER AREA  
1325 3rd Street, Port Huron MI 48060  
(810) 987-6400 Fax: (810) 987-7251  
www.bluewaterymca.com

Thank You!  
-Alaina  
Thank you!!  
-Andi  
Thank you!!  
-Sam  
Thank you so much!  
-Miss Krista  
Thank you!  
-Courtney  
Thank you!  
-Eileen  
Thank you!  
-Debra  
Thank you!  
-Olivia  
Thank you!  
-Emma  
Thank you!!  
-Amie  
Thank you!  
-Amanda  
Thank you!  
-Logan  
Thank you!  
-Miss Dawn  
Thank you!  
-Miss. KC  
Thank you!  
-Meghan

Thank you  
for supporting  
the work we  
do!

# Here are a few social media posts that you might have missed.....



Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Angie Lademer · 26m · 🌐

Hello from Thailand! Our 2020 Wismer scholarship recipient Deschalyn Riase recently shared a life update with us.

"I am in Thailand this summer, where I am interning for two nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and one of them is named BEAM. BEAM's mission (<https://beamedu.org/>) is that they envision people-oriented, peaceful, and developed communities in Myanmar and Thailand, which can be sustained by empowering local communities through comprehensive and continuous access to education."

Someday the Community Foundation hopes to have a dedicated endowment to support other students who want to study and travel abroad.

Congrats on a wonderful internship opportunity Deschalyn!



Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Jackie Qualman Hanton · April 11 · 🌐

We're happy to share about a \$5,000 grant to the Marysville Public Safety Department for their CAPS program.

C.A.P.S. stands for "Citizens Assisting Public Safety" and is not a new concept, but one that Marysville is excited to see in their community.

Throughout history, Police and Fire Departments have been assisted by the public in some form or fashion, and it has become a community relations mission to involve the public. The C.A.P.S. program intends to not only enlis... See more





# Find us on:



Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Angie Lademer · July 5 ·



Look at these cute reading Bees! The Memphis Book Hive is hitting the road after a three-year labor of love. The Book Hive will be hosting some fun "Meet and Read" events through the summer for Memphis Elementary School students.

The Book Hive was made possible in part by a grant awarded by our Claude and Alexa Lawrence Fund.



Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Jackie Qualman Hanton · April 13 ·



More and more students are exploring options for life after high school and we want to support a student's path, no matter which way it leads to their success. Recently, three of the Community Foundation's grantmaking committees awarded more than \$41,000 for trades exploration, college tours and college access.

Learn more about these recent awards: <https://www.stclairfoundation.org/foundation-awards-41k.../>





### Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Angie Lademer · July 28 at 6:30 AM · 🌐

A BIG thank you to our All Star Services Donor Advised Fund for fulfilling the wishes of **Kids In Distress Services**!! All Star Services Donor Advised Fund is one of our corporate donor advised funds which are a growing family of funds here at the Community Foundation. The DAF allows corporations the ability to give back to our local community in meaningful ways. To learn more about corporate DAFs please visit:

<https://www.stclairfoundation.org/giving-center/businesses>

Ther... See more



### Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Jackie Qualman Hanton · July 11 · 🌐

Our community rocks!!! Match met! Less than 24hrs ago we shared that thanks in part to the generosity of our local Meijer in Fort Gratiot we had \$10,000 in matching funds for our wish list.

You all stepped up and have given \$10,000+ in wishes with more wishes still being granted! THANK YOU!

If you have not seen our wish list... Please check it out! Every dollar helps our local nonprofits so very much.

<https://www.stclairfoundation.org/wish-list/>

Thank you James C. Acheson Foundation for matching the Meijer grant to help more wishes to be granted and help every dollar go further!







Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Angie Lademer · 5d · 🌐



We've grown! Please help us welcome Lisa, Debbie, Krystal and Angie! To find out more about the talents and experience they bring to the team visit <https://www.stclairfoundation.org/about/our-staff/>

We're excited to have them on our team!

# WELCOME TO THE TEAM



**LISA MIKETICH-KULIGOSKI**

Accounting Clerk



**DEBBIE STA CRUZ**

Donor Relations Assistant



**KRYSTAL MORALEE**

Storyteller



**ANGIE LADEMER**

Executive Assistant



Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Published by Audrey Sochor · May 12 · 🌐

We greatly appreciate the hours of work our many scholarship selection committees put into reviewing this year's applications (pictured is our main scholarship committee in action). More than 260 applications were reviewed from students around the county and we look forward to announcing award recipients publicly in the near future!



# Eastern Michigan Christian Foundation Fund reaches \$1,000,000

May 26, 2023



The Eastern Michigan Christian Foundation Fund (EMCF) has reached a huge milestone in growing their endowment fund to \$1million. Eight local faith-based nonprofits have worked with hundreds of donors over the past eleven years to build a sustainable source of support for their organizations. The endowment is managed by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County.

“The Community Foundation is the kind of partner every nonprofit dreams about,” said Marty Doorn, founder and executive director of the EMCF. “We would not be nearly as successful without them. Their staff provides a level of expertise that is unmatched. The Foundation has been and continues to provide incredible support as we have built the EMCF fund from zero to over one million dollars,” he added.

The EMCF Fund was created in 2012 to support specific Christian based organizations in St. Clair County as well as other programs, projects and organizations within the local Christian community. Eight organizations currently have their endowment fund under EMCF: Operation Transformation, SONS, SPERO Pregnancy Care Center, Youth for Christ, Bridge Builders, HOPE FM/Thrive Radio, New Life Christian Academy and A Beautiful Me.



Each organization invested in their future when the fund began by contributing at least \$15,000 and then working with our generous community to continue to grow their endowments. Since that time, EMCF has simultaneously grown the fund to one million dollars while also granting nearly \$320,000 back to the eight organizations and other faith based nonprofits locally.

“It’s been amazing to watch how an endowment fund works,” said John Romine, EMCF Board Member. “The fund started with \$100,000 in 2012, it’s grown to 10 times that amount and at the same time has granted hundreds of thousands of dollars back to our community. It’s truly the gift that keeps on giving and we’re so happy to have each nonprofit and donors invested in our future.”

EMCF member organization HopeFM/Thrive Radio has used their endowment fund to do community outreach programs for Kids in Distress, host an event for young girls called Bloom (supported by the Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Council), and through the James C. Acheson Foundation relationship a nice investment was made for the radio stations move to downtown Port Huron.

“Across America faith-based giving has always been a strong part of philanthropy, and we have leveraged our collective strength to encourage more faith-based giving here in the Thumb Coast,” said Brian Smith, Executive Director of HopeFM/Thrive Radio.

All eight member organizations of EMCF are completely reliant on faith based giving for their operations. Each organization has committed to growing their endowment fund under EMCF to help offset their annual operating costs and to provide a sustainable source of support for their work. Endowments are generally meant to last forever, and when done well, they provide a comfortable and critical financial safety net for nonprofits.

Tyrone Burrell, Executive Director of SONS, said “Our endowment funds also gives donors the chance to support their favorite faith-based organizations through gifts of life insurance, appreciated stock, real estate, or other planned estate gifts.”

To learn more about Field of Interest Funds like [EMCF](#) at the Community Foundation, [click here](#). Field of Interest Funds allow a donor to select a particular area of emphasis, such as education, seniors, health, recreation, etc., and then dedicate the available grant dollars from that fund to address the most pressing issues within that [field of interest](#).

Dear All Star Services Donor  
Advised Fund,  
Wow! Thank you so very  
much for this wonderful grant  
of \$2,000.00. We can't wait  
to stock us on new socks,  
shoes, underwear, diapers &  
wipes to give away for the  
up coming school year. Thank  
you for helping to make  
a difference in our little piece  
of this world. Together, we  
are making sure no child  
goes without. In Gratitude,  
K.I.D.S.

Kids In Distress Services, Inc.  
"We exist so that no child will go without"  
1114 South Seventh Street  
St. Clair, Michigan 48079

Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society  
P.O. Box 228  
Algonac, Michigan 48001

August 14, 2023

Community Foundation  
Attn: Sue Schmid - Donor Relations Officer  
500 Water Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Sue,

RE: Summer Wish List Program  
Grant Check in the amount of \$240.00

Thank you for your recent check of \$240.00 to help us purchase a vacuum  
cleaner for our Community Museum. The old vacuum cleaner has been put  
to good use over the years but is getting pretty worn out. It will be a  
pleasure to help clean the carpet and displays with a new and hopefully  
lighter model. We are all volunteers and as is many organizations we are  
getting older but the work still needs to be done.

Once again **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,

*Marilynn Genaw*

Marilynn Genaw  
Corresponding Secretary

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for funding our  
Wish through your funds at  
the Community Foundation.  
It means so much to us to have  
your support in providing free  
hospital lodging in these beautiful  
locations, with abundant amenities.

Dear Audrey + the Executive Committee,  
On behalf of the students and  
Staff at PHS, Thank you for the  
\$5,000 donation to support the purchase  
of personal care items. We will use  
the funds to support our hygiene program  
and the purchase of other personal  
care items. We appreciate your support!  
Olyvia Haynes  
Principal, PHS

7-7-23  
The Blue Water Allies are extremely  
grateful for your generous grant.  
With this donation we were able  
to purchase all new furniture for the  
Ally Center. Providing a comfortable,  
efficient and safe space for our  
LGBTQ community is major part of  
the mission of the Blue Water Allies.  
Thankyou for making that possible!

In Allyship,  
The Board of the Blue Water Allies





**ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT COUNCIL**  
IT SHOULDN'T HURT TO BE A CHILD

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Sherry L. Archibald

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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SCC Community Mental Health

**Hilary Georgia**, Vice President  
Tourna, Watson, Whaling,  
Corry & Stremers PC

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Department

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Community Child Advocate

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Community Child Advocate

**Jason Mikolayek**  
Raso First

**Frank Partipilo**  
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**Kathleen McKenna**  
McLaren - Port Huron

**Katie Cox**  
Lake Huron Medical Center

**Shari Smith**  
Community Child Advocate

**Honorable Judge  
John Tomlinson**  
SCC Probate Judge

**Deborah Walbeck**  
Department of Human Services

**Mike Wendling**  
SCC Chief Prosecuting Attorney

**Korissa Kramer**  
Kramer Realty



1107 MILITARY, PORT HURON MI 48069 | PHONE (810) 966 - 9911  
WWW.SCCSCTOPCHILDBABUSE.ORG | INFO@SCCSCTOPCHILDBABUSE.F

August 7, 2023

Community Foundation of St. Clair County  
500 Water St.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Friends,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your support of ALL of our wishlist items. We are overwhelmed by your generosity. Please extend our thanks to the Mary Moore Fund of St. Clair. All of the items will be used directly with the children and families we serve in St. Clair County.

Once again thank you for your continued support of the Council and our mission in support of the belief that...  
"It shouldn't hurt to be a child."

Sincerely,  
*Sherry L. Archibald*  
Sherry L. Archibald  
Executive Director

\$3,500.00  
Grant

Thank you for your donations  
Gaden  
Dear Suzanne G. Purledge  
Fund,  
On behalf of the clients  
& the staff at the Harbor,  
I'd like to thank you for  
your donation. It is an  
honor to serve the youth  
in our community & we  
wouldn't be able to do  
that without our amazing  
community coming  
together. We appreciate  
it & are grateful for your  
help.  
Thank you!  
Harbor Staff

City of St. Clair Recreation Department  
Stclairrec.com



June 9, 2023  
Community Foundation of  
St. Clair County  
500 Water Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Community Foundation:  
We would like to acknowledge the much-appreciated donation of \$6,000.00 received from the St. Clair Endowment fund for the City of St. Clair 2023 Summer Concerts. Donations was used for artist and stage rental fees.

We are looking forward to offering family entertainment and a variety of music in the park. We hope you get the opportunity to enjoy the concert series this summer.

Thank you again more than ever this year for your generosity and support.  
City of St. Clair Recreation Department

The full amount of your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law since we provided no goods or services to you in relation to your contribution.

City of St. Clair - 547 N Carney Drive, St. Clair, MI 48079 - (810) 329-7121

Community Foundation,  
Thank you for the investment into our community through the grant you provided to Woodside Bible Church Grocery Giveaways! We are increasingly saddened when we observe the evidence of food insecurity that many in our Algonac region are experiencing. How grateful we are that we now have the ability to increase our efforts to address this need, because of these additional funds!

It is a joy for us to partner with you in building goodwill in our community. We will be sure to mention your contribution as we provide the Grocery Giveaways.  
Sincerely In Christ,  
Dan Stewart  
Pastor, Woodside Bible Church, Algonac

# Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Norman and Isabel Cosgrove Memorial Fund

June 5, 2023



We are celebrating the twenty-five year anniversary of The Norman and Isabel Cosgrove Memorial Fund. The Cosgrove Fund was established to honor the generous family man that Norman Cosgrove was and to keep his legacy of building a healthy community for the next generation alive.

A contribution of just over \$23,000 from the trust of Norman's wife, Isabel Cosgrove, was made in 1998 to establish the donor advised endowment fund. Norman and Isabel's daughters, Beth and Norma, have been active fund advisers since the fund's inception.

When asked about her late father, Beth Norris recounted an intelligent family man, who was always holding out his hands to help others.

The Cosgrove Fund has provided \$16,500 in grants to support organizations like the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Port Huron Old Newsboys, and has provided life needs support for scholarship

recipients. As the fund nears granting out as much as the original gift received, it shows the power of the endowment fund as a gift that keeps on giving.

The original \$23,000 gift from Isabel's Trust has grown to nearly \$37,000 while also providing \$16,500 in grants over the past 25 years. The Cosgrove Fund has weathered three market recessions during that time while Beth and Norma remained steadfast in giving back to honor their parents and Father's philanthropic legacy specifically.

Norman's legacy of support for his community and fellow community members lives on today through this fund, a fitting tribute to a set of hands that knew both heavy labor and caring ethics.

Norman Cosgrove was born July 15, 1895. He was a professional hockey player in northern Michigan and Ontario, along with teaching and boxing, which helped



put him through school. Norman attended Michigan College of Mines, known today as Michigan Technological University, until he enlisted in the Army in 1917 at the beginning of World War I.

He served with the Corps of Engineers, 32nd Division, and was honorably discharged as a master sergeant in 1919.

In 1920, he married the love of his life, Isabel, who was by his side for 56 years. A talented homemaker and seamstress, she worked within their home to raise their daughters Norma and Beth.

After the war Norman became a metallurgist, which is a materials scientist who specializes in metals. He was chief metallurgist for the Wills-St. Claire auto company in Marysville until the mid-1920's when he moved to Port Huron.

After falling ill from inhaling cyanide fumes, his doctor recommended he get a job outside in the fresh air, "perhaps digging ditches." Through Norman's many contacts in the oil industry from his time with Wills-St. Clair, he was informed of an immediate opening as a distributor with the Sinclair Refining Company.



Norman didn't let the opportunity pass and purchased two flat-bed trucks mounting a 400 gallon tank on one of them. He delivered gasoline and kerosene oil to farmers, stores,

and filling stations across the region. Although they struggled, he and Isabel worked together to achieve success while living in a small bungalow above his office. Just as Norman hired his first employee, the Great Depression struck, taking every cent he had in his savings and checking accounts.

Relief came in the form of a \$1,000 loan to help him get by until a commission check would come in. Norman would go on to pay that loan back within one year. His business then grew exponentially over the



years and by the mid-1960's, Norman was serving 55 service stations and employed a crew of 17.

A family man first, one of his crew members was his daughter Beth who drove with him on his supervising rounds. After many years helping numerous of his managers achieve ownership of their particular service station, Norman departed from Sinclair. He would then form the Cosgrove Oil Company and would remain president until his death in 1976.

In addition to his business ventures, Norman was very civically engaged including being the first chairman of the Marysville Planning Commission, and a member of the Community Foundation's Board in 1959-1961 when it was called Port Huron District Foundation. Norman's generosity has lived on through the Cosgrove Fund for the past twenty five years and will continue on for another twenty five years and more because it's endowed. The general charitable intent of the fund allows Beth and Norma to continue to give back how they see fit in memory of their parents and to continue building a healthy community for the next generation.

The Community Foundation celebrates this exciting fund milestone and appreciates the hard work, dedication and community commitment that Norman and Isabel had during their lifetimes. It's an honor and privilege to help Beth and Norma give back in their parent's memory.