

Kelly Ferneau Joins BCF Board



Kelly Ferneau is the most recent addition to Berrien Community Foundation's Board of Directors! She is American Electric Power's Nuclear Generation Site Vice President.

Ferneau's passion for the local community led her to the decision to join the board.

"One of the things I like about the foundation is it meets all different kinds of needs – from animal shelters to people who need food," Ferneau said. "I'm an engineer by trade, so I have a good grasp on how to get things done in the most efficient way. I hope to be a good partner in implementation with the board. I feel good about being part of this."

Welcome, Kelly!



Berrien County Gives Back

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2023

Grantwriting 101

Sometimes, we all need a little brush up on our skills. That's why in February, BCF offered two "Dos & Don'ts of Grant Writing" workshops for our nonprofit partners. BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey and BCF Program Director Susan Matheny talked about how to write a more effective grant application and answered questions about the grant process.



The classes were at capacity so keep an eye out for dates for additional workshops. In the meantime, we are always available to answer questions for grant applicants.



Gotcha Doin' Good, Berrien County!

Gotcha Doin' Good is all about showcasing the awesome acts of kindness people do right here in Berrien County! **Berrien Community Foundation** wants to hear (and then share) about the people who go the extra mile – a one-time thing or a recurring act of kindness. Like the person who spent a little bit of their Saturday picking up trash at a local park, or that child who decorated rocks with encouraging sayings and left them around town for strangers to find.

Kevin Sweeney was just the person to kick off the project in March.

Kevin is a rockstar of a volunteer at the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor.

Recently, he brought the supplies for a creative craft project making "drawing robots" with the kids using pool noodles and electric toothbrushes. He also serves up hot dogs from his hot dog cart during the summer and mac 'n cheese in the winter!

INSIDE: More Gotcha Doin' Good stories!



Do you know someone who we should feature in Gotcha Doin' Good? Scan the QR code below or visit www.berriencommunity.org/GotchaDoinGood to tell us their story.



Upcoming Deadlines

- April 30** – Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant
- June 15** – Golden Acorn Classroom Mini Grants
- May 15** – William J. Deputy Grant
- May 31** – Carolyn's Kids
- June 15** – Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grants

SAVE THE DATE
BCF's Annual Scholarship Celebration
Thursday, June 15 @ Mendel Center
More details to come!

Gotcha Doin' Good, Robin and Erica!

Robin Lydic went above and beyond her call of duty at the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan to help a family keep their dogs after they were all recently displaced by a house fire.

Since pets are such a comfort, Robin wanted to make sure the family could keep them by their side; she connected the family with local veterinarians, walked them through the process and paperwork for support animal designation, and found other resources to keep the family together.



Erica Momany opens her business, Koehler Financial Services in Stevensville, every Wednesday morning for YoungLife's WyldLife girls to come in, hang out, grab a donut and fellowship with one another before school starts. She does so much for these Lakeshore Middle School girls, and we think it's cool how she invests in them!



Thank You Dr. Peeples-Burks

Berrien Community Foundation and the community at large said goodbye to long-time BCF Director **Dr. Gladys Peeples-Burks** earlier this year. Gladys passed away on February 7 at the age of 94. She served on the BCF Board of Directors from 1997 until 2009. She continued to support the foundation, serve on committees and attend events during all the years that followed.

"Gladys had a great capacity for discerning truthfulness," said retired BCF President Margaret Poole. "She was a lover of the truth. She was a real leader on the board and a source of wisdom."



Gladys was a champion of education and a compassionate, skilled leader. She truly lived a life dedicated to making the world a better place.

Thank you, Dr. Peeples-Burks, for all you did to inspire us.

Dr. Gladys Peeples-Burks and her sister Barbara Peeples attending a BCF Annual Meeting and Celebration.



Tying It Together - with 310 Orchard

Berrien Community Foundation is partnering with **Deer Creek Open Space Association (DCOSA)** to conserve land in Sawyer. The goal is to raise \$240,000 to complete the project.

DCOSA purchased 310 Orchard Boulevard planning to tear down a dilapidated home, plant indigenous trees and flowers, and create a walking path. The property, called the Orchard Meadow Preserve, will link two nearby preservation projects together.

"This project meets our mission statement with protecting and conserving land," said DCOSA board member Bob Beemer. "We're promoting appreciation and education of our natural environment and trees."

"Being able to link two green spaces together with a community walking path is a project that will benefit so many in our community," said Berrien Community Foundation President Lisa Cripps-Downey.

People can donate online at www.berriencommunity.org/310-Orchard-Project or by check payable to "BCF-310 Orchard Project" at 2900 S. State Street, Ste. 2E, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Not Your Average Library Book

The **Lincoln Township Library** is a library of many books, but now they have expanded to offer some not-so-typical library items.

One of **Berrien Community Foundation's For Good Grants** was awarded to the Stevensville library to start a "library of things" — full of both everyday and uncommon household items ready to be checked out by patrons.

"Our 'library of things' will be full of things you don't typically see in a library — items people would use for everyday purposes at the house," Lincoln Township Library Director Joelle Wake said. "The 'library of things' is also a place for people who want to give a hobby a try without spending \$150."

The "library of things" is likely to include some technology gadgets, crafting machines, cooking appliances, tools and hobbyist items like a tent.

"We think of ourselves as more of a community center where people can see their neighbors, hang out, enjoy programming and get different items to bring home," said Wake.

To check out items from the 'library of things,' visit Lincoln Township Library at 2099 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.

