

Berrien Community Foundation Awarding \$112,000 in Scholarships

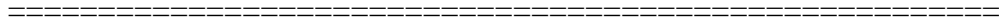
The Berrien Community Foundation will provide \$112,000 in college scholarships to Berrien County students for the 2011-12 academic year. The scholarship recipients are to be celebrated at a June 9 reception for about 150 donors, scholars, and their guests. In its history the Foundation has awarded \$1.8 million in scholarships to Berrien County students.

“These scholarships assist our Berrien County youth to attain their educational dreams,” said Berrien Community Foundation President Dr. Nanette Keiser. “Generous donors make it possible”.

Scholarships and recipients to be honored at the reception include:

Edna Bender Scholarship: Roberta Zelmer (Berrien Springs); **Bryce Boothby Family Scholarship:** Keyana Brown (Benton Harbor) (featured speaker), Patrick Pjesky (Lake Michigan Catholic); **Jeffrey Evan Demko Scholarship:** Justin Weber (Bridgman); **Drews Scholar:** Sarah Klug (Lakeshore); **Dunn Scholarship:** Jacquelyn Andreson (Lake Michigan College), Erica Worke (Lake Michigan College); **Jameson Matthew Gargano Memorial Scholarship:** Sarah Klug (Lakeshore); **Heart of Cook Scholarship:** Amanda Clark (River Valley), Shelby Francis (River Valley), William Otte III (Lakeshore) (featured speaker), Brett Phillips (Niles), Marcus Smith (Grace Christian), Peter Xie (St. Joseph); **Drs. John E.N. & Dede Howard Instrumental Music Scholarship:** Alexandra Berndt (Boston Conservatory), Rachel Eid-Ries (Western Michigan University), Heather Ewer (Western Michigan University), Josephine Isaac (Western Michigan University), Deborah Larsen (Michigan State University), Ariele Macadangdang (Western Michigan University), Kristyn Macqueen (Western Michigan University), Jonathan Reed (Rice University), Megan St. Amand (Western Michigan University), Sara Sulecki (Western Michigan University), Molly Zebell (Western Michigan University) (featured speaker); **Drs. John E.N. & Dede Howard Music Scholarship-Lake Michigan College:** Elise Von Koenig; **Jon Jollay Scholarship:** Sutton Needham (Coloma); **Lora Wile-Miller Memorial Scholarship:** Sarah Klug (Lakeshore); **Terence Joseph Mulvihill Scholarship:** Eva Balich, Benjamin Bartelmay (both New Buffalo); **Carol A. Oehlhaffen Lake Michigan Catholic Scholar:** Megan Broderick; **Carol A. Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship:** Deon Atkins (Benton Harbor); **Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship:** Alex Moore (Berrien Springs); **Judith E. Phillipi Scholarship:** Jamie Richcreek (Watervliet); **Arlene B. Porritt Memorial Scholarship for Curious Kids:** Matthew Peterson (St. Joseph); **Terry Richcreek Memorial Scholarship:** Brad Rose (Watervliet); **Don J. Sayan/W. Jack & Dr. Nanette M. Keiser Scholarship:** Alexandra Soos (Lakeshore); **Special/Anonymous:** Dillon Barry (Coloma), Janine Golob (Lake Michigan Catholic), Jameisha Jones (Benton Harbor High School); **Welch Family Scholarship:** Keyana Brown (Benton Harbor), William Otte III (Lakeshore); and **Wayne K. Wright Scholarship:** Autumn Smith (Berrien Springs).

Scholarship applications will be available at high school counseling offices and on the Foundation's web site by early February 2012. For more information on the Berrien Community Foundation, please visit www.berriencommunity.org.



THE HEART OF COOK PROGRAM AWARDS GRANTS

"The Heart of Cook" grant recipients for 2011 were announced by Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant during a reception at its Visitor Center on May 17. Grants totaling \$53,000+ were provided to 37 area nonprofit organizations. Over \$400,000 in grants have been provided by this program since its inception.

"The Heart of Cook" is a grant program administered by the Berrien Community Foundation targeted to assist educational, human services, and environmental projects/programs in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to projects that involve I&M employees.

"These are challenging times for nonprofit organizations," said Larry Weber, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. "We hope the Heart of Cook grants will help sustain these very important programs as well as show our appreciation to a community that has shown us so much support through the years."

Organizations receiving grants of \$501-\$5,000 were the American Cancer Society, Benton Harbor Girls Association for Learning & Self Esteem, Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc., Berrien County Council for Children, Berrien County Health Department, Berrien County Parkinson Support Group, Berrien Springs Oronoko Township Police Department, Betty's Buddies, Bridgman Fire and Rescue Department, Buchanan Preservation Society, Conservation Fund, Curious Kids' Museum, Five Pines Ministries, Inc., Gateway, Hospice at Home, Junior Achievement of Michiana, Lake Michigan Catholic Middle/High School, Lakeshore Rotary Foundation, Lest We Forget, Inc., Logan Community Resources, Inc., Niles Community Schools, Sarett Nature Center, St. Joseph Senior High School, Therapeutic Equestrian Center, and Woodland Shores Baptist Church.

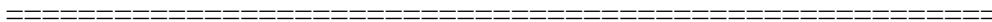


Lakeshore Rotary Foundation representatives Dick Stauffer, Tony Korican, Marti Harris, and Dave Ratajik (l to r) were among guests from 37 area nonprofits to receive Heart of Cook grant checks from Cook Vice President of Support Services, Mike Carlson, at the reception held at the Cook Visitors Center in Bridgman.

Organizations receiving grants of \$500 and under included the Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan, Canine Companions for Independence, Chikaming Open Lands, Lakeshore Senior High School, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Rotary Club of Benton Harbor Sunrise Foundation, Saron Lutheran Church, Save A Stray, Senior Nutrition Services, Inc.-Region IV, St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Watervliet North Elementary, and Well of Grace Ministries, Inc.

Grant applications for 2012 may be available sometime in January by contacting the Berrien Community Foundation at www.berriencommunity.org.

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, IN and serves more than 580,000 customers in Indiana and Michigan. I&M, part of American Electric Power, is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. For more information visit www.indianamichiganpower.com or www.cookinfo.com



TEAM Awards Grants

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation's youth advisory committee, recently recommended a total of over \$29,000 in grants. Support was provided to the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor's College Readiness Program (\$10,000), Children's Music Workshop's 2011 & 2012 productions (\$3,000), Hospice at Home's Lory's Place (\$2,200), Readiness Center's Backpack Give Away/Pep Rally (\$1,225), Water Street Glassworks' Fired Up! Teen After-School Glass Program (\$1,000) and Winning, Inc. of America's 2011 Summer Literacy Mentoring Program (\$7,500). Under the healthful living focus area, Curious Kids' Museum received \$5,000 for its Run, Jump, Fly program.

TEAM's mission is to involve youth in a process that develops their lifelong values and skills of philanthropy, generosity, and leadership. TEAM's grants focus on teen sex/pregnancy prevention, positive youth decision-making skills, substance abuse prevention/awareness, positive activities/recreation for youth, and healthful living.

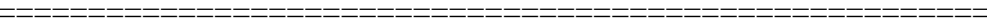


**Dwight Bowman II (l), and Kathleen Risk members of TEAM,
confer about several grant applications**

In 1989, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided funding to support a vision of youth empowerment and grantmaking. The Berrien Community Foundation received part of this funding to start an endowment to benefit youth-serving organizations in Berrien County. Since that time TEAM has awarded over \$1.4 million in grants and participated in many service projects to enhance the quality of life for youth.

The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned individual can put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien

County and beyond. For more information about the Berrien Community Foundation, please visit www.berriencommunity.org.



Harbor Country Area Endowment Fund Established

Anonymous donors recently established the Harbor Country Area Endowment Fund at the Berrien Community Foundation. Grants from the spendable of this endowment fund will assist multiple nonprofit/exempt organizations in and/or serving Harbor Country® (Michiana, Grand Beach, New Buffalo, Union Pier, Lakeside, Harbert, Sawyer and Three Oaks and all related municipalities).

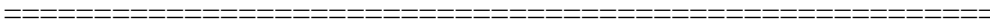
A Foundation committee will coordinate awareness building and fundraising efforts for the fund and provide grant recommendations from time to time. Committee members are Colleen Mitchell, Chair, Mary Dunbar, Hillary Bubb, and Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation President.

“We’re excited about partnering with the Berrien Community Foundation for this endowment fund that will benefit Harbor Country, ” said Colleen Mitchell, Committee Chair. “We also look forward to involving those who want to celebrate and support the uniqueness of Harbor Country.”

Donors making contributions to this fund at the Berrien Community Foundation will have the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit available in 2011, in addition to the regular tax deduction for such contributions. The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned individual can put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County and beyond. For more information about how to give to this fund call 269-983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.



**Harbor Country Area Endowment Fund Committee Members
Colleen Mitchell, chair, Hillary Bubb, Mary Dunbar, and Nanette Keiser (l to r)**



Berrien Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

The Berrien Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2011 applications are available for its various scholarship programs made possible by several donors.

Berrien County graduating high school seniors are encouraged to visit www.berriencommunity.org, Scholarships page, for a complete list of available scholarships and criteria. Applications for many of these scholarships programs are available for downloading on this Web page.

Berrien County high school counseling offices will receive a limited number of copies of these applications around February 1. Students may check with these offices as well.

Applications are due March 8, 2011. Decisions will be announced in early May on the same web site. Please visit www.berriencommunity.org for more information.

Grants Available from “The Heart of Cook”

Grant applications for \$100 and above are again available from the Heart of Cook Foundation Fund held at the Berrien Community Foundation. “The Heart of Cook” is a grant program administered by the Berrien Community Foundation targeted to assist educational, human services, and environmental nonprofit projects in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana. Indiana Michigan Power’s Cook Nuclear Plant funds this program.

“Cook employees volunteer thousands of hours to community organizations each year,” said Larry Weber, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. ““The Heart of Cook’s grant program is another way we express our appreciation for working and living in our various communities.”

The funding focuses for “The Heart of Cook” grants program are educational projects, human services programs that support families, and environmental protection and preservation projects. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to projects that involve I&M employees. 501(c)(3) tax exempt or equivalent status is required.

“In 2010, we contributed \$54,000 to fund 35 nonprofit programs and special projects in educational and community-based agencies,” said Bill Schalk, employee advisory committee member.

The grant application due date is February 8, 2011, with awards to be announced in May. Grant applications and guidelines may be obtained by visiting the Berrien Community Foundation's web site at www.berriencommunity.org starting January 7, 2011.

Berrien Community Foundation Grants \$109,000

Berrien County: The Berrien Community Foundation recently awarded almost \$109,000 in grants to several Berrien County nonprofit organizations. Grants were provided in the areas of

building a spirit of community/arts & culture, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, lifelong learning, and Golden Acorn mini grants for classroom projects. **In a given year, the Foundation provides about \$2 million in grants from its 240 funds to benefit Berrien County.**

“Our grants support a variety of programs and projects in Berrien County that range from a youth career academy to a Korean War Veterans Tribute,” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation president. “It is critical in these challenging times that the Foundation supports these Berrien County organizations as they accomplish their missions.”

Building a spirit of community/arts & culture grants totaling \$14,320 were provided to the Berrien County Victim Services Unit (\$5,000), Bridges to Digital Excellence (\$5,220), Buchanan District Library (\$1,600), and Lest We Forget, Inc. (\$2,500).

Nurturing our children grants totaled \$33,800. These included grants for the Child & Family Services of SW MI (\$10,000), Curious Kids’ Museum (\$7,500), Gateway, Inc. (\$5,800), InterCare Community Health Network (\$7,500), and Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation (\$3,000).

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation’s youth advisory committee, recommended a total of \$23,700 in grants to the Board for approval. This included support for the Berrien County Health Department (\$1,700), Hospice at Home, Inc. (\$4,000), Michigan Works! (\$7,500), Water Street Glassworks (\$3,000), and Winning, Inc. of America (\$7,500).

Lifelong learning commitments totaled \$30,000. The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center (\$5,000) and up to \$25,000 for the study and possible funding of pre Kindergarten readiness programs were allocated.

Nine Berrien County school districts received a total of over \$7,000 in Golden Acorn classroom mini grants for 21 teacher projects. Ranging from \$100-\$500 each, these grants enhance classroom activities throughout the County.

The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned individual could put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County and beyond. For more information about the Foundation call 983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.

=====

Berrien Community Foundation to Maintain Endowment

The Berrien Community Foundation was notified in December 2010 by the YWCA of Berrien County regarding its corporate dissolution.

The Foundation holds a fund called the YWCA Endowment Fund of which only a certain percentage of the fund (historically 5%), as required by law, has been available annually to support the YWCA of Berrien County’s mission. As is the case with all the Foundation’s endowments, this fund is a Foundation asset, since the Foundation has legal control and ownership of the fund.

If a nonprofit organization connected to an endowment fund at the Foundation such as the YWCA of Berrien County ceases to exist (e.g., dissolves), the Foundation is obligated by IRS and other regulations to continue to hold the endowment and to use only 5% of the endowment for as similar charitable purposes as the original fund. In this case, after careful study of Berrien County needs and the YWCA of Berrien County’s primary mission work over the past several

years related to childcare, this percentage will be used primarily for programs that build the capacity of childcare providers and/or support childcare services in Berrien County. Grant distributions of about \$10,000 per year are anticipated in 2012 and will involve a request for proposal process. For questions, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 269-983-3486.

The Berrien Community Foundation Elects New Officers & Appoints Members

The Board of Trustees of the Berrien Community Foundation elected its 2010-2011 officers—Sharon Vargo (Benton Harbor), Chair; Tim Passaro (St. Joseph), Vice Chair & Treasurer; and Hillary Bubb (Harbor Country), Secretary. Patricia Forbes, who will remain on the Board, was thanked for her stellar year as Board Vice Chair.



Board Officers: Sharon Vargo, Tim Passaro, Hillary Bubb (l to r)

The Board of Trustees also recently appointed 22 new members: *Elizabeth Andrews, Jim Ashbrook, Anthony Belski, Jim Brinkmann, Doug Chapman, William Chickering, Regina Ciaravino, Kay Confer, Ann Dahmer, Kim Forsey, Don Gillespie, Elizabeth Glendening, Barbara Globensky, Todd Gustafson, Mark Hesemann, Charles LaSata, Mary Beth Moriarty, Lee Reed, Tom Starks, Carol Weller, Megan Yore, and Mark Zielke.*

With these additions, there are now 181 members of the Foundation. These new appointments by the Foundation's Board of Trustees are in recognition of the time, resources, and energies these 22 individuals already contribute to their greater Berrien County communities. Members act as ambassadors for the Foundation, are the critical core of its volunteer base, elect the Board Trustees, appoint its auditor, and generally support the Foundation's efforts in Berrien County.

"We are very privileged to have these 22 wonderful community volunteers join us as members," said President Dr. Nanette Keiser, "Their perspectives and insights will greatly enhance our ability to fulfill our mission to serve Berrien County".

The Berrien Community Foundation is celebrating its 58th year and was founded by William Vawter and other local leaders. Its mission is enhance the quality of life in Berrien County and build a spirit of community through building mainly endowments, providing donor services and grants, and serving as a facilitative community leader in the County. For more information, please call 269-983-3486 or visit www.BerrienCommunity.org.

2010 Golden Acorn Grantee Awards

The Berrien Community Foundation announced its four 2010 Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients during its 58th annual celebration held on September 15th at the Heritage Center. Donors, volunteers, grantees, fund holders, and community partners were also recognized during this event.

The Foundation's Golden Acorn Awards honors nonprofit organizations funded by the Berrien Community Foundation. "We believe that it is very appropriate for the Foundation to recognize their efforts through the Golden Acorn Grantee Awards," shared Dr. Nanette Keiser, Foundation President, "We consider this our unique way to recognize these organizations and their programs that have so much impact in our County."

The Foundation's four primary grant review committees each identified a program funded during the fall 2009 cycle that best illustrated the committees' criteria based on the originally submitted grant applications and updates provided by the programs. The four Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients were then recognized at the annual celebration where they were given the opportunity to describe their programs. They also each received an additional \$1,000 grant for their previously funded programs.



Representing the Golden Acorn Grantee Awards Recipients: Eileen Carlson, Chuck Nelson (Sarett Nature Center), John Nakas, Phil Brooks (Winning Inc. of America), Peg Schaffer, Anna Murphy (United Way of SW MI), and Kathy Rossow (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berrien and Cass, Inc.) (l to r)

The **Sarett Nature Center** received the *Building a Spirit/Arts & Culture Golden Acorn Grantee Award* for its **Hands-On Science Curricula for Berrien County**. Two curricula were built and implemented to teach scientific concepts about local habitats (bogs, marshes, and upland forests) to Berrien County children preparing for statewide tests with the Foundation's funding. This program serves an estimated 2,100 Berrien County families per year.

The **United Way of Southwest Michigan's Girls on the Run** received the *Lifelong Learning Golden Acorn Grantee Award*. This character development program for girls in 3rd-5th grade teaches life skills in a creative, active, and fun format. The mission is to "educate and

prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.” About 150 girls participated in the program because of this grant.

The *Nurturing Our Children Golden Acorn Grantee Award* was given to the **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berrien and Cass, Inc.** to communicate with its clients. The funding provided by the Foundation increased the lines of communication with Big Brothers Big Sisters, both active and prospective, with particular emphasis on those volunteer mentors at the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor. About 125 children, ages 6-12, were impacted.

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation’s youth advisory committee, presented the *Youth Leadership and Development Golden Acorn Grantee Award* to the **Winning Inc. of America’s 2009-2010 Literacy Recovery and Mentoring Program.** Foundation funding supported a year round after school tutoring and mentoring program and a ten week summer literacy recovery program at the Boys & Girls Club. About 450 Benton Harbor youth benefited from this program.

The Berrien Community Foundation was founded by William Vawter and other local leaders in 1952. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life in Berrien County and build a spirit of community through building mainly endowments, providing donor services and grants, and serving as a facilitative community leader in Berrien County. For more information, please visit www.BerrienCommunity.org and/or call 269-983-3486.