

Scholarship Season Is Around The Corner!



Do you know a student in need of financial assistance to attend college in the fall? The Berrien Community Foundation scholarship applications will be online **starting February 1.**

“There are scholarship opportunities for students in every school district in Berrien County,” said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey.

Three new scholarships are being introduced this year:

- The Rodney Weir Scholarship for Coloma Marching Band
- The SW MI Human Trafficking Task Force Scholarship, and
- The Upton Opportunity Scholarship.

For more information visit www.berriencommunity.org/scholar.

Heart of Cook Grants Available

Grant applications are available for “The Heart of Cook” Foundation Fund. The deadline to submit is February 9.



“We are pleased to provide this funding opportunity to the organizations that help our community to be a great place to live and raise a family,” said Joel Gebbie, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. “The Heart of Cook Foundation is one way that we can say thank you for the important services these organizations provide to us throughout the year.”

The grant program focuses on education, human services programs that support families, and environmental protection and preservation. Special consideration is given to projects that involve Cook/I&M employees. Organizations must have 501(c)(3) or equivalent to qualify for funding.

“In 2017, we provided more than \$52,000 in funding to 36 non-profit programs,” said Bill Downey, employee advisory committee member. For more information visit the Berrien Community Foundation website at www.berriencommunity.org/HOC.



Berrien County
Gives Back

Winter 2018

New Year Brings a New Take on Grants at BCF



Starting with the first grant deadline on March 31, the Berrien Community Foundation will open applications for the new **“For Good” Grants**. Organizations serving Berrien County will have two opportunities each year to apply for funding for the programs and projects serving our community with a total of up to \$250,000 being awarded each year.

The **“For Good” Grants** are made possible by the **BCF For Good Community Endowment**. “When donors support the For Good Community Endowment they are supporting non-profit organizations throughout Berrien County forever,” said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey. “We invest those dollars and can then give back with these grants every year, forever.”

It's a “Twofer”

The **“For Good” Grants** will be open for two cycles per year and will be available in two sizes: the For Good Major, for up to \$10,000, and the For Good Minor, for up to \$1,000. The **For Good Minor** has a shorter, simpler form geared toward organizations with a smaller request and the **For Good Major** will be a more standard length grant application. The grant opportunity is available to 501c3 non-profit organizations, schools, religious organizations doing community work and government organizations. Organizations can receive one grant per calendar year.

“Our non-profit organizations do difficult and amazing work in our community,” Cripps-Downey said. “It is our job to get the dollars out and working to support their efforts.”

Application due dates are March 31 and August 20. More information is available online at www.berriencommunity.org/grants.



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He Chose to Create Legacy

Lester Page, Sr. served as a member, trustee, volunteer and treasurer of the Berrien Community Foundation for over 30 years. As a young attorney on the Board of Trustees, Page would always say, “Don’t try to predict what might happen in the future,” and encouraged the board to trust and have faith in the good hearts of the people that would lead when they were gone.



Lester Page

Upon his passing this year, Mr. Page created the **Lester and Barbara Page Endowment Fund**. This fund will forever serve the most crucial needs in the community... trusting the leaders of today to identify needs and use the funds wisely.

This bequest will forever serve the people and the community he loved and Mr. Page’s leadership and generosity will never be forgotten.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

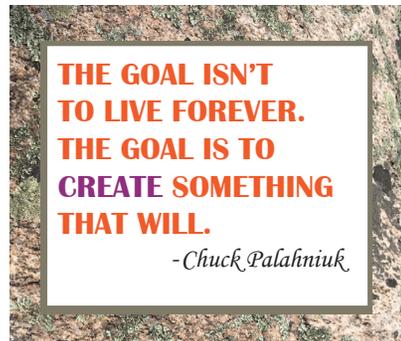
The wealth you’ve developed over a lifetime can make a more positive community impact when you work within Berrien Community Foundation

For more than 65 years BCF has helped individuals develop funds and endowments focused on the specific services or agencies **THEY** feel are worthwhile.

We manage the assets to optimum growth, help meet tax laws, and guide the funding to support the ever-changing needs of Berrien County – now and in the future.

If you’d like your legacy to have more impact, call BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey at (269) 983-3304 or visit www.BerrienCommunity.org.

Don’t we all want to be remembered for creating good?



He is Bending Over Backwards to Make This Scholarship Happen!

When Rodney Weir graduated from Coloma High School in 1988 and headed to the University of Michigan, he didn’t know he would end up on national television leading the U of M Marching Band as the drum major for two years. Coloma High School band members also didn’t know they would end up as the beneficiaries of his experience through the creation of the **Rodney Weir Scholarship for Coloma Marching Band at the Berrien Community Foundation**.

Weir’s experiences with the bands at Coloma and The University of Michigan helped him to learn about teamwork, discipline, and the importance of hard work. To help other students who are in band, Weir decided to start a scholarship for local students who are going to continue with band participating at a collegiate level. “I went on to receive a degree in physical therapy and I carry the values I learned from being in the band into my professional work,” Weir said.

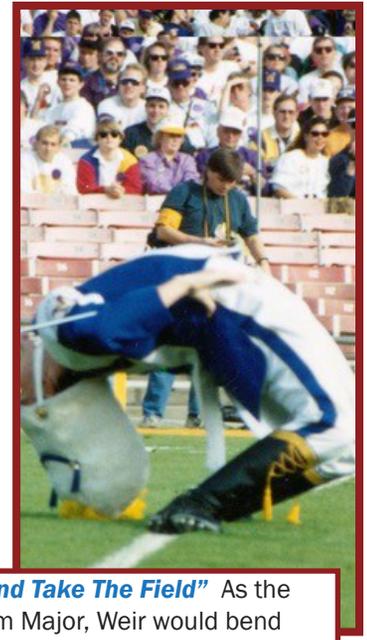


Rodney Weir

He also wanted to do something to encourage students from Southwest Michigan to think and dream big. “Leading the U of M Marching Band was never something I dreamed was possible,” Weir said. “But, with some hard work and determination, it happened. There is no reason that other students from area high schools shouldn’t chase big dreams.”

Now Weir is working to build the scholarship to reach a \$25,000 endowment so the scholarship can be given in perpetuity.

The scholarship will begin by offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Coloma student who intends to continue to play in a collegiate band. Weir hopes to extend the opportunity to other schools as the endowment grows.



“Band Take The Field” As the Drum Major, Weir would bend backward and touch his plume to the field before each game.