

A Classroom Grant Leads to Art Success

Congratulations to Niles Middle School Student & Teacher!

How do you engage students? [Make learning creative and FUN!](#) Ring Lardner Middle School art teacher Scott Morgan took that a step farther and started an after-school graphics club. Prior to being a teacher, Morgan was a professional graphic designer and photographer.

"I have entered my Art students in the Box Factory for the Arts every year," Morgan said. "It is the biggest Art show in the area. I noticed several middle schools in the area were entering computer generated artwork. So, last year I started the Graphic Design Club."

Grants from the Berrien Community Foundation helped to support the start up costs of the club by purchasing the necessary software. "We live in a visual society. Computer generated images have become a new art form and a powerful means of visual communication," he said.

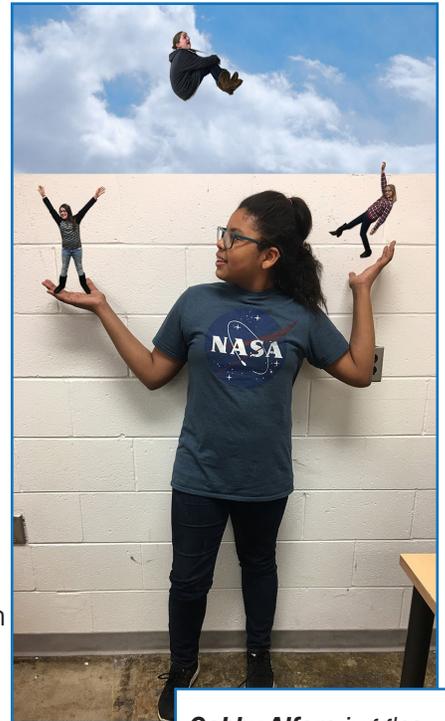


Scott Morgan,
Niles Art Teacher

This year, one of his students, Gabby Alfaro won the first place for Photo/Tech award that resulted in having her work professionally framed and a

\$50 prize.

"I wanted to incorporate my friends into my design," Gabby said. "I made it look like I was juggling my friends!"



Gabby Alfaro juggles friends in her winning piece

The club's popularity continues to grow with the middle school students. "The students have loved the club," Morgan said. "I had more students wanting to join than programs for them to use. [The Berrien Community Foundation solved that issue. Their grant allowed me to purchase the programs needed to successfully teach the after-school Graphics Design Club at Ring Lardner.](#)"

BCF Upcoming Due Dates for Grant Programs



May 15 - William Deputy Grants due

June 1 - Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Grant Proposal Letter due

June 15 - Frederick S. Upton Foundation applications due

June 17 - Golden Acorn Classroom Mini Grant applications due

September 16 - BCF "For Good" Grant applications due



FREDERICK S. UPTON
Foundation

To learn more about applying go to: www.berriencommunity.org/grants

BCF Women's Giving Circle is MENTORING SUCCESS

Berrien Community Foundation's newest innovation, the **Women's Giving Circle** is Mentoring Success! This group of dynamic female leaders from all over Berrien County was formed to tackle issues facing women and girls in Berrien County.

Their first effort is to provide two **FREE**, three-hour workshops designed to help women enhance their mentor skills.

"The program was designed with the idea that women at all ages and stages in life are mentors," said WGC member Shari Weber. "This workshop will help them identify mentoring opportunities as well as have the tools needed to be the best mentor that they can be."

Partnering with the local YMCAs, the workshops will be held **11 a.m. – 2 p.m., on Tuesday, May 7** at the Niles-Buchanan YMCA. Lunch is provided and free childcare and transportation are offered to help women attend. The

same program will be offered **5:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6** at the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph YMCA.

"As women, we understand how difficult it can be to balance work and family while still making time for ourselves" said WGC member Jane Brandstatter. "That is why we wanted to remove as many barriers as possible by offering transportation and childcare to those who might need it."

"The Mentoring Success workshop is just the beginning," said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey. "I look forward to what this amazing group of women will accomplish."

To register go to www.berriencommunity.org/mentor or call 269-983-3304.



BERRIEN
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The *Women's*
Giving Circle

Passing Up A **New Car** To Start A Scholarship

What college student doesn't want a new car? Meet Callahan Stoub – founder of the **Stoub Family Scholarship for Working Students at the Berrien Community Foundation**.

Callahan's dad, Eric is a small business entrepreneur who recently sold part of a business and decided to take a portion of the proceeds to purchase better, more reliable cars for his kids. He and his wife Traci felt cars that could handle Michigan winters and last through college and beyond were good investments to make on behalf of their children. But Callahan – a history major at Hillsdale College – had something in mind that would last much longer and help students like herself handle the expenses of a college education.

"Dad my car is fine. I like my car," Callahan told her dad. "But you know we could start a scholarship at the Berrien Community Foundation with that money to help other students." Practically speechless, Eric told her to put together a proposal and they would talk about it over Christmas break.

"We always had jobs in high school. I would hear about my friends spending summers volunteering or traveling, which is great, but I really think I learned a lot from working."

-Callahan Stoub

"Since I started thinking about careers in high school, I always had a list of places I want to give back to someday," Callahan said. "We always had jobs in high school. I would hear about my friends spending summers volunteering or traveling, which is great, but I really think I learned a lot from working."

One of the keys to the scholarship for Callahan is rewarding students who have a work history and a professional resume. "I think it is important to reward students who have had a job and the experience of working for college," she said.

The endowed scholarship will provide \$1,000 for a graduating high school senior or community college student starting at a four-year college. The student must show a three-year work history during school or the summer and demonstrate financial need. The family would like to see the scholarship go to a student that is "caught in the middle," unable to receive need-based financial aid but also unable to afford the rising cost of college.



Callahan Stoub poses with her car.