



community foundation

For good. For ever.

Berrien County

Gives Back

July 2016

BCF Welcomes Four New Scholarships

Bring on **FOUR MORE!** The Berrien Community Foundation awarded more than \$130,000 in student scholarships including four newly established scholarship programs at the annual scholarship celebration in June. The new scholarships included The All God's Children Community Choir Scholarship, The Insurance Management Services Scholarship for Benton Harbor Football, The Miller Journalism Scholarship and Powered By Honor Scholarships.



Shareif Alexander, winner of the IMS Scholarship for Benton Harbor Football with donor Rich Brandt

A special highlight of the event was hearing from Faith Keathley, the 2001 winner of the Carol A.

Oehlaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship. "Always be humble and kind,"

Keathley said. She spoke about how the lessons she learned while participating in philanthropy with the Berrien Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee were as valuable as the scholarship that helped her earn a degree at Ferris State University.

"For some students, these scholarships mean the difference between going to school and taking time off to work," said Berrien Community Foundation

President Lisa Cripps-Downey. "For others the scholarship provides a vote of confidence that they can succeed in school."

Berrien Springs High School graduate Morgan Coulston was the winner of the newly established Ronald H. Miller Journalism Scholarship and a speaker at the scholarship celebration.

"Receiving this scholarship gave me confidence," Coulston told the audience of more than 140 donors, recipients and family members. "I have received a lot more than just a scholarship, I have received plans for my life and for that, I thank you."



Faith Keathley with BCF Trustee Hon. Thomas Nelson



Morgan Coulston speaks at the scholarship celebration.

In its history the Foundation has awarded over \$2.3 million in scholarships to Berrien County students.

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The 2016 Berrien Community Foundation Scholars and donors gather at the annual scholarship celebration held at Lake Michigan College.

“Many of these scholarships were established to honor a beloved spouse, parent child or loved one, or to encourage a respected profession or reward benevolent actions... whatever the reason, there was sacrifice and thought involved in providing your scholarship.” BCF Vice Chair Hon. Mabel Mayfield advised the recipients, “Remember your donors. And, when it is your turn, remember to give back.”



Powered by Honor Scholarship recipients.

Scholarships and recipients honored this year include: All God’s Children Community Choir Scholarship: Taryn Butler, Aliyah Davis, Rana

Holmes (Berrien Springs); Edna Bender Scholarship: Mason McFarland (Berrien Springs); Bryce Boothby Family Scholarship: Jawana Young (Benton Harbor) and Monica Milanowski (Lake Michigan Catholic); Jeffrey Evan Demko Scholarship: Brooke Essig (Bridgman); Drews Scholar: Addison Wood (Lakeshore); Dunn Scholarship: Linda Bentley (Lake Michigan College), Ashlee Thompson (Western Michigan University); Jameson Matthew Gargano Memorial Scholarship: Leah Wojahn (Lakeshore); Heart of Cook Scholarship: Lillian Arp (New Buffalo), Madison Brandt (Lakeshore), Nicholas Brant (Watervliet), Samuel Burck and Larry Lamb (Niles), Peter Chen (St. Joseph); John E.N. & Dede Howard Instrumental Music Scholarship: Jonathan Barnes (Western Michigan University); Insurance Management Service Scholarship: Shareif Alexander (Benton Harbor); Jon Jollay Scholarship: Emma Tavolacci (Coloma); Leonard & Marion Krall Memorial Scholarship: Karlee Liles (Watervliet); Sondra J. Kaminski Scholarship: Monica Milanowski (Lake Michigan Catholic); Ronald H. Miller Journalism Scholarship: Morgan Coulston (Berrien Springs); Lora Wile-Miller Memorial Scholarship: John Wendland (Lakeshore); Terence Joseph Mulvihill Scholarship: Ashley Yuan (New Buffalo); Carol A. Oehlhaffen Lake Michigan Catholic Scholar: Dana Ives, Mary Koenig, Sarah McCoy, Monica Milanowski, Samantha Schueneman (all Lake Michigan Catholic); Carol A. Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship: Momodu Sheriff, Jr. (Bridgman) and Keegan Downey (Lakeshore); Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship: Ashley Pompey (Berrien Springs); Arlene B. Porritt Memorial Scholarship for Curious Kids: Grace James (St. Joseph); Powered by Honor Community Commitment Scholarship: Sahana Hari Krishnan and Allison Hughes (St. Joseph), Allison Matti (Lakeshore), Alexander Rynkiewicz (Bridgman), Emily Sarra (Bridgman); Terry Richcreek Memorial Scholarship: Alexis Elston (Watervliet); Welch Family Scholarship: Isabael Becerra and Jawana Young (Benton Harbor), Andrea Perez (Lakeshore); and Wayne K. Wright Scholarship: Samantha Krause (Berrien Springs).



Saying Thank you!

Coming Up Next at BCF

BCF Grant Application Due

Applications for the Fall 2016 Berrien Community Foundation grant cycle are available online at www.berriencommunity.org. The grant application **deadline is August 31**. The Foundation makes grants of up to \$10,000 to non-profit organizations serving Berrien County residents.

Areas of Interest:

- Arts & Humanities
- Community Development & Special Needs
- Environment & Animal Protection
- Healthful Living
- Nurturing Our Children
- Quality Education
- Senior Empowerment; and
- Youth Leadership & Development

Organizations wishing to apply may do so on-line at www.berriencommunity.org. "We encourage prospective applicants to review the information on the website to help answer any questions, but please feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions," said Berrien Community Foundation Program Officer Susan Matheny. "We are here to help."

Volunteer with BCF & Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry

We are looking for **15 - 20 volunteers** to help man the Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry site at **2 p.m. on August 17 in the Mosaic Resale Store in Benton Harbor**. Volunteers would help with set up and distribute food to clients seeking food assistance. If you can give two hours to help, please **contact the Berrien Community Foundation at 269-983-3304**, ext. 4. This mobile food pantry is a result of a grant from the Berrien Community Foundation sponsoring mobile pantry sites throughout Berrien County.

Save The Date

2016 Berrien Community Foundation Annual Meeting & Celebration

Date: September 21, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

Celebrate the 2016 Golden Acorn Winners!

How do you *DO* Philanthropy?

BCF Grant Funds “No Hungry Senior” program



The wait is over for many Berrien County seniors. Senior Nutrition Service - Meals on Wheels is happy to report they have not needed a waitlist since receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Berrien Community Foundation last fall. Meals on Wheels provides hot meals as well as warm smiles and wellness checks for homebound seniors in Berrien County. These hot meals and visits

can be the difference between living at home vs. living in an assisted living facility and, in some cases, can be the difference between life and death.

Last year, demand for meal delivery for homebound seniors increased 45% from the previous year. By implementing the “No Senior Hungry in Berrien County” program in December, they have eliminated the need for a waitlist and served over 33,000 meals during this time. This represents meals to more than 300 hungry seniors.



In addition to the hot meals, the Meals on Wheels drivers provide a welcome visit and wellness check for their clients. “These drivers, over time, really begin to know the people they are delivering to,” said Executive Director Linda Strohl. “They know who always comes to the door right away and who needs a bit of rousing to get to the door.” Strohl remembered a driver who delivered meals to a woman who usually answered the door right away. He knocked and knocked on the door but no one came to the door. When the driver was unable to reach the emergency contact for the woman, 9-1-1 was called. Police came and found the woman had fallen and was unable to get up or yell loud enough to be heard. In this case, the wellness check became just as important as the food itself.



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