

For a Lifetime & Beyond

Bill Deputy was a community leader with a heart for Harbor Country. He especially loved projects that benefited waterfront areas as he was a member of the New Buffalo Yacht Club and the New Buffalo Harbor Commission. Bill wanted to make sure his love and support of Harbor Country continued beyond his lifetime so he left a charitable legacy with the Berrien Community Foundation in the form of the **William J. Deputy Fund**.

Each year, municipalities in Harbor Country have the opportunity to apply for grants to support projects to benefit their communities. The municipalities can apply on their own or partner with a nonprofit organization.

The William J. Deputy Fund has provided so much benefit to Harbor Country. A Safe Kids Station in New Buffalo provides water safety information and free life jackets to borrow. In Three Oaks Township, the fund helped with the renovation of the Spring Creek School House into a more vibrant community center.

New Buffalo Township was able to collaborate with the Harbor Country Rotary to install an outdoor handicap accessible exercise equipment space in a local park. A recycling program in Chikaming Township was a grant recipient along with the Beach Dunewalk in New Buffalo.

“The beauty of this legacy gift is it continues to reflect and support the things Bill Deputy loved,” said Berrien Community Foundation President Lisa Cripps-Downey. “This is his charitable legacy.”

Grant applications for the William J. Deputy Fund are due on **May 15**. For more information on the fund or to apply, visit www.berriencommunity.org/deputy. For more information on creating your own charitable legacy with the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Lisa at 269-983-3486 or lisa@berriencommunity.org.



Bill Deputy, left, instituted a legacy gift that'd give back to the community he loved - Harbor Country - even after his passing. Pictured above and below are a couple of the projects funded through the William J. Deputy Fund.



BCF Upcoming Due Dates for Grant Programs

- April 30** - Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant
- May 15** - William J. Deputy Grant
- June 1** - Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Grant
- June 15** - Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grant
- June 15** - Golden Acorn Classroom Mini Grant



Meet the T.E.A.M.!

Meet two students who are members of Teens Exhibiting Able Minds, **Bailey & Chris!** **T.E.A.M.** is the Youth Advisory Committee for BCF. Our mission is to empower youth to develop lifelong values of generosity, leadership and volunteerism. T.E.A.M. members are high school students from throughout Berrien County who review and award youth grants, create and execute service projects and have **FUN** being the voice for youth in philanthropy!

Bailey | Niles

Q: What's been your favorite activity you've done with TEAM?

A: My favorite activity was when we got to wrap shelves and decorate windows for the Wonderland Toy Store so kids could have a great Christmas!

Chris | Coloma

Q: What would you tell someone who is thinking about joining TEAM?

A: I would tell them not to be worried or scared. Everyone involved is really nice plus the feeling of helping others and the overall experience is amazing!

Know a **Freshman** or **Sophomore** in Berrien County? We are recruiting T.E.A.M. members for the upcoming school year! Visit www.berriencommunity.org/team.

Did You Know?

Gifts of cash to charities of up to \$300 for individuals and up to \$600 for joint filers for 2021 could be written off when you file next year's taxes – even if you don't itemize. The **above-the-line** deduction lets non-itemizers take a charitable deduction.

ABOVE THE LINE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION



How Does it Affect You?

Above the line means taxpayers receive the deduction without the need to itemize.

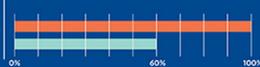


How Much Can You Deduct?

Deduct cash gifts up to \$300 (single filers) or \$600 (married, filing jointly) from taxable income.

What is the Contribution Limit?

The income limit for cash contributions to public charities has increased to 100% of income from the previous 60% limit.



CME Council of Michigan Foundations

Federal legislation extended and enhanced this benefit through 2021 to incentivize charitable giving for all Americans. *Cash gifts made to donor advised funds are excluded from this benefit.

Earth Day Grant Sows the Seed of Education

Berrien County Conservation District will be placing ready-to-plant trees in the hands of kids across Berrien County thanks to the second annual Heart of Cook Earth Day Environmental Grant.

The project incorporates a science-based curriculum that focuses on the study of organic decomposition and soil management. Teachers will be invited to participate with their classrooms in ordering the seedlings, planting the seedlings, and entering into an essay contest to win special vermiculture kits. Children will learn the benefits of planting trees, reducing waste and carrying those positive habits forward.

Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant "**Heart of Cook**" **Earth Day Environmental Grant** Committee recently announced the conservation district as the recipient of the \$5,000 award.

"This project incorporates the best elements of the award criteria," said Blair Zordell, Cook Plant Environmental Specialist and Earth Day Environmental Grant Committee Chair. "It's a great opportunity to educate kids about the sustainable benefits of planting trees and composting, and how the process improves our environment long-term."

Learn more at www.berriencommunity.org/HoCEarthDay.

