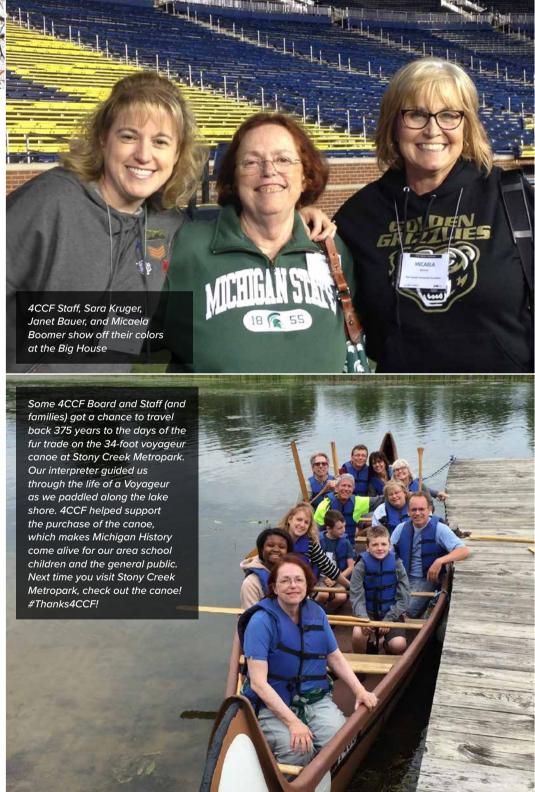
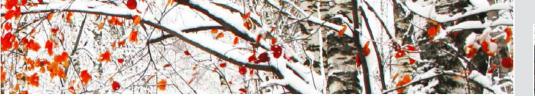


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4CCF Trustees, Staff, and YAC celebrate 30 years of serving our community





John Brzozowski Chairperson



Joe Worden Vice Chair



Peggy Domenick-Muscat Treasurer



Dina Miramonti Secretary

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CHAIRPERSON AND CEO MESSAGE



Dave Bishop recollects the determined community involvement in raising funds to build the Community Hospital in the early 1950's. He became a 4CCF Founding Board Member in 1987.







As part of his profession, Dr. Carlos B. Gayles delivered babies at the Community Hospital (including Ed Risch's own daughterl), then became a Founding 4CCF Board Member and remains proud of the work we do to improve our community.

1987 was memorable for many reasons: Ronald Reagan was our 40th President; Michigan celebrated its sesquicentennial and Jim Blanchard was the governor; the sticker price of a Ford Escort was \$6,895; a gallon of gas cost 89 cents; and the average income was \$24,350. And, here in the corners of Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair counties, something remarkable was happening.

For almost thirty years, the Community Hospital had served local residents. It opened in 1958 after a capital campaign successfully raised enough funds to build a 32-bed hospital. Detroit Free Press staff writer, Neal Shine, described our community spirit in an article on January 3, 1958:

"This is the story of the new Community Hospital rising on the Lawrence Farm near Almont. The \$700,000 structure was financed by people in four counties who dug deep in their pockets to raise the first \$429,000, even the children chipped in their pennies."

The Community Hospital satisfied a vital need, so much so, that by the early 1960s, there was an expansion of the building and it continued to serve thousands of people. However, by the mid-1980s, it struggled to operate as a full-service hospital and the Community Hospital Foundation decided to accept \$2.5 million from St. Joseph Mercy of Macomb to purchase the building and land.

Instead of spending the proceeds from the sale of the hospital, the trustees of the Community Hospital Foundation had a vision to permanently benefit the communities that the hospital had served. In 1987, they created the Four County Community Foundation and endowed the funds. The revenues from investments would be used to benefit residents of our four-county area for years to come.

2017 marks the 30th Anniversary of Four County Community Foundation. We are pleased to report that our assets now exceed \$15 million and we administer 121 funds of various types. In our 30-year history, we have awarded over \$8 million in grants that supported a wide variety of programs and services including education and scholarships, health and human services, community improvements, public safety, sports and recreation, youth development, and many others.

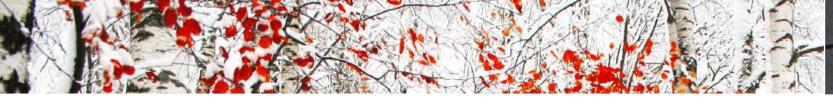
As we reflect on the legacy left to us by generations past, we are also excited for the future. Our family of funds continues to grow and we are proud to introduce our newest additions:

- Sam and Eleanor Mendola Fund
- Lyle and Joyce Powers Scholarship— Imlay City Schools Alumni Association
- · Romeo Community Archives Fund
- Michigan Association of Professional Insurance Agents Scholarship Fund
- Romeo Community Schools Athletic Enhancement Fund

We would like to recognize three families who have volunteered for three generations with the Foundation. Thank you to the Ligon Family, the Sillers & Schapman Family, and the Verlinde Family for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

If you have supported Four County Community Foundation, we thank you. We hope that this report compels you to continue your generosity. If you are new to the foundation, we welcome you and hope our stories will encourage you to become even more involved.

Please visit our website at www.4ccf.org for more information and to sign up for our newsletter. Follow us on Facebook and please "Like" and "Share" our posts. Together, we can help our community grow!



Statement of Financial Position

1	for year	ending	
Docombor 21	2016	Docombor 21	2015

	December 31, 2016		December 31, 2015	
A	SSET	s		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,195,144	\$	127,176
Investments	\$	12,972,452	\$	12,144,250
Accounts Receivable	\$	-	\$	7,550
Beneficial Interest in Trust	\$	30,000	\$	650,000
Prepaid Expense	\$	17,335	\$	13,394
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$	139,702	\$	145,369
Other Assets	\$	1,199	\$	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	13,087,739	\$	13,733,922

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$	9,446	\$	8,999	
Grants Payable	\$	76,478	\$	52,800	
Other Liabilities	\$	2,515	\$	2,016	
Total Liabilities	\$	88,439	\$	63,815	
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$	14,237,393	\$	12,373,924	
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$	30,000	\$	650,000	
Total Net Assets	\$	14,267,393	\$	13,023,924	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	14,355,832	\$	13,087,739	

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

for year ending

December 31, 2016 December 31, 2015

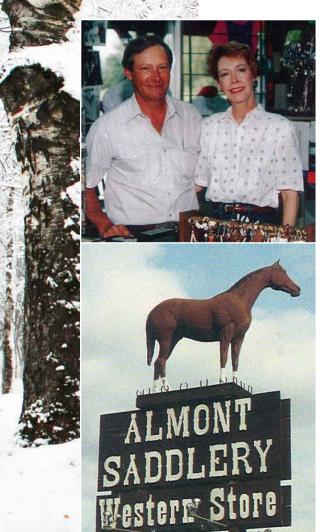
		/			
REVENUES					
Contributions - Unrestricted	\$	735,075	\$	191,162	
Contributions - Temporarily Restricted	\$	66,490	\$	-	
Investment Income, net of expenses	\$	249,833	\$	247,366	
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains	\$	748,967	\$	(455,130)	
Other	\$	1,014	\$	-	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	1,801,379	\$	(16,602)	

EXPENSES				
Program Services, including grants	\$	411,636	\$	510,104
Support Services				
Management and General	\$	82,775	\$	77,181
Fundraising	\$	6,010	\$	15,984
Development	\$	57,489	\$	55,134
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	557,910	\$	658,403

NET ASSETS					
Increase in Net Assets	\$	1,243,469	\$	(675,005)	
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$	13,023,924	\$	13,698,929	
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$	\$14,267,393	\$	\$13,023,924	

PUBLIC NOTICE: The financial information contained in this report has been prepared from our most recent annual audit. Our audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are on file for review at the Foundation office during normal business hours. Copies of either document are available for a nominal fee. Names of investment managers and trustees responsible for investments and the oversight of assets are also available upon request.

NEW FUNDS



Sam and Eleanor Mendola Fund

Four County Community Foundation is honored to be the beneficiary of a \$1.1 million gift from the Sam and Eleanor Mendola Trust. Sam and Eleanor lived in Almont and owned and operated the Almont Saddlery from 1969 until it closed in 2008. During those thirty-nine years, the Almont Saddlery was a landmark destination that attracted customers from all over Michigan, Ontario and beyond. The substantial endowment to Four County Community Foundation created an unrestricted fund to continue the Mendola's legacy of giving back to the community.

Sam and Eleanor were married in Detroit in 1962. They began selling equestrian-related products at horse shows and, in 1969, opened a small store in downtown Almont. They quickly outgrew that location and built and opened the Almont Saddlery at 780 N Van Dyke. The store attracted everyone from the show-horse set, to casual riders, to country music fans, and motorcycle riders. The Saddlery was the place to go for a silver-trimmed saddle, a custom-steamed (by Sam) cowboy hat, or a pair of English-style riding boots. It became a landmark shopping destination, easy to find because of the elevated horse statue along the roadside.

The couple loved operating their business and working with people who appreciated horses. They enjoyed traveling and dancing together. Country music was always playing at the Almont Saddlery. Sam was a long-time member of the Lapeer Country Mounted Posse Division, joining in the 1970's.

Sadly, Sam passed away in 1998. Eleanor kept the Saddlery open and remained active in the community as a member of the Lapeer Business and Professional Women's Club. In 2008, Eleanor decided to close the Almont Saddlery and move to Kentucky. She lived there, near her sister, until she passed away in 2014.

Sam and Eleanor Mendola were devoted to each other, to their business, and most especially, to their community. Their generous gift leaves a permanent legacy to the communities served by Four County Community Foundation.







Lyle Powers had a rich and meaningful career as an educator and coach in Michigan public schools. His Adrian College athletic days were interrupted by his Army combat time in the Pacific during World War II. He limped away from that life-altering experience with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

From 1948 to 1966 Lyle had a highly successful teaching and coaching career in Imlay City. He taught history and regaled his students with tales of his Army combat days. He established the Imlay City Little League baseball program, a youth basketball program, and a summer playground program. He wrote the first board policy for the Imlay City School District.

Lyle was high school principal at Brown City for one year before moving the family to Brighton to serve as head principal from 1967 to 1985, when he retired. In retirement he wrote a newsletter for his Company A, 136 Infantry, 33rd Division Army buddies, offered U. S. History presentations to the community, and demonstrated his old-fashioned cider press to elementary students.

Lyle Powers was a life member of the VFW and the American Legion, and secretary and president of the Brighton Rotary. He was inducted into the Adrian College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994. This was a man who believed in the human potential of each individual, and the power of teamwork and collaboration. Coach Powers, as he was so fondly referred to by Imlay City students, died at age 83 in 2005.

Joyce (Whiteman) Powers was born and raised in Imlay City, Michigan. She attended Imlay City High School, which at that time was located on Bancroft Street. Joyce graduated from ICHS a member of the class of 1952. She married Lyle Powers and together they raised four children, three of whom became teachers.

When the family moved to Brighton, Joyce attended the University of Michigan. She received her Bachelor's Degree in 1970 and her Master's Degree in 1971, with certification in Library Science. She worked as a classroom teacher and media specialist in the Ann Arbor school system. After her retirement in 1995, Joyce served four terms on the Brighton Board of Education. Joyce is founder of Brighton Women's History Roll of Honor, which recognizes the diverse accomplishments of Brighton area women of note, and served with several organizations which promote pre-school learning.

The Powers family feels deep gratitude to the Imlay City Schools Alumni Association for having a process for giving to which they could contribute. Scholarships enrich lives and create a better future for all through the success of individual young people. As educators, Lyle and Joyce suggest that a scholarship is more than the monetary assistance that is so helpful to a graduate. It is the gift of encouragement and confidence in the recipient that is the major benefit. In addition, it develops in the receiver a sense of responsibility to pass their own personal gratitude to the next generation.

An alumni scholarship speaks volumes for a belief in democracy and public school education, which together form the foundation of this country. Imlay City Schools Alumni Association now has three funds with Four County Community Foundation; the Imlay City Alumni Association Fund, the Linda Muir Grant Fund, and now the Lyle and Joyce Powers Fund. 4CCF challenges our remaining alumni associations to consider endowing a scholarship fund to promote education in their respective schools and make the world a better place for having been here.



NEW FUNDS



The 2017-2018 MIPIA Board

Michigan Association of Professional Insurance Agents Scholarship Fund

A new scholarship has been created to promote the education of students who are pursuing careers in insurance-related fields. This new fund has been established by the Michigan Association of Professional Insurance Agents (MIPIA). The fund is permanently endowed, leaving a legacy to assist students who choose risk management and insurance as their career path.

MIPIA contains a membership of civic-minded, businessmen and women who embody the spirit of entrepreneurial America and form the backbone of our society. They are leaders in their Michigan communities, providing personal attention to customers, one neighbor at a time.

The MIPIA Fund proudly awarded its first scholarship in the spring.

Romeo Community Archives Fund

The Romeo Community Archives Fund was created by the Friends of the Romeo District Library in response to a generous donation from Melvin E. Bleich. Melvin was the owner and editor of *The Romeo Observer* for over fifty years. His donation included over 150 years of *The Romeo Observer*, along with accompanying photographs, biographical information, and other ephemera relating to its publication and the history of Romeo. The archives, located in the Kezar Library, house several other collections including the Romeo Monday Club, the Romeo Peach Festival, the Romeo District Library, and the Romeo Players.

This fund will ensure continued access to and preservation of these important historical resources. Donations of historically significant collections from local organizations and families are currently being solicited. Monetary donations to this fund will support the preservation and development of these collections and other advocacy efforts.



Romeo Community Schools Athletic Enhancement Fund

The athletic facilities at Romeo Community Schools have been transformed this year, including an amazing renovation of Barnabo Field. Now, even more exciting changes will be possible through a new fund at Four County Community Foundation. The Romeo Community Schools Athletic Enhancement Fund has been created thanks to generous donations from the community. This fund will continue to accept donations for the improvement of athletic facilities or to purchase much-needed athletic equipment. The projects funded will be *in addition* to the improvements made from the school district millage.



According to Romeo Community Schools Athletic Director, Greg Brynaert, "Major improvements to our sports facilities have been underway this year, including the renovation of Barnabo Field. Additional enhancements will be made possible through this new fund at Four County Community Foundation." Jason Couch, a Romeo High School teacher and coach, added, "Our student athletes have successfully competed at high levels for many years. Our goal is to have facilities that match the quality of our athletes. With your help, we will be able to do that. This is truly something that we can all feel proud of for years to come."

Over the past thirty years, Romeo Community Schools and Four County Community Foundation have partnered to provide scholastic and athletic opportunities for students. Four County Community Foundation has awarded nearly 1,400 grants and college scholarships to Romeo schools and Romeo graduates. In 2013, Romeo Community Schools created the Watchdog Scholarship. Since then, some of the proceeds from Watchdog Week are given to this endowed fund which provides college scholarships to Romeo seniors who have previously battled or are currently battling cancer.

The Romeo School District community and alumni will continue to create a variety of athletic experiences and opportunities for young athletes, fellow students, and fans. *GO BULLDOGS!*





OUR FUNDS

UNRESTRICTED

Four County Community

Jane E. Bishop Memorial

🏋 Sam & Eleanor Mendola

Dora & Toos Ondersma

Pr. James & Ann Sillers

ADMINISTRATIVE

Friends Operations

NON-ENDOWED

Capac Youth Sports Project

President's Advised

Romeo Community Schools Athletic Enhancement

COMMUNITY

Almont Education & Community

Armada "Al Verlinde" Community

Capac Community

Dryden/Metamora Community

Imlay City Community

Romeo Community Action

DESIGNATED AGENCY

Family Literacy Center of Lapeer County

Roland W. Graubner Endowment for the Romeo District Library

Imlay City Historical Commission

Richmond Rotary Foundation Robert "Tiger" Fruin Memorial

Romeo Community Archives

Romeo Historical Society / Charles E. Keller

Symphonia Chorale Endowment

DONOR ADVISED

Armada Education Foundation

"Stay Strong Stan"-Stanley Ian Babinski Memorial

Justin C. "Jut" Bullock Memorial Scholarship

Capac Adolescents Preventing Abuse & Crime

Capac Educational Endowment

Darin Conrad Education

Joseph & Bertha Corrion Charitable

Linda Muir Grant - Imlay City Schools Alumni Association

Victoria E. Hill Memorial

Imlay Area Christian Community

Imlay City Schools Alumni Association

Key Players Athletic Foundation

Ligon Brothers

Marshall Lock Memorial

Sally McGeorge Memorial

James E. Neely Scholarship

Rhonda Nugent Memorial

James A. and Marilyn K. Ottevaere

Karras Pelfrey Memorial Scholarship

Richmond Athletic Club Endowment

Gail Rickard Foundation

Dr. Bernard J. Stremler Memorial

Waterloo Hunt Club Donor Advised

Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Foundation

FIELD OF INTEREST

21st Century Education

Almont Area

Armada Area

Capac Area

Dryden Area

Imlay City Area

Romeo Area

Linda M. Felton Memorial

Four County Community Foundation Home

Four County Environmental

Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth

Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth 2

Imlay City Educational Endowment

W. K. Kellogg Youth

Lapeer Regional Hospital Endowment

Harry Moore

Lloyd Veitch

Loral Watson Memorial Endowment

The Women's Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy B. Barr

John R. & Iris M. Bartholomew & Polly Ann Boldt Scholarship

Andy Beam Memorial

Capac Educational

Athletic Booster

Harry Bussell

Capac Youth Scholarship

Marion & Robert Fischer

Robert Wayne Creger Sr. Memorial

Cryderman-Hebblewhite Agriculture

Howard & Marie Dahn

Hilda M. Hill Memorial

Imlay City Educational

Blonde Scholarship

Grettenberger

Alvin Norlin

Glenn L. Smith II Memorial

Lee Weyer Athletic

Richard P. Wheeler

Ruth Isaacson Memorial

Lawrence & Rose Juip Memorial

Knights of Columbus Council #7018 Roman Catholic

Laurie Lee Memorial

Russell W. Ligon Memorial Engineering

🌳 Michigan Association of Professional Insurance

Agents Scholarship

Murdie Educational

North Macomb Soccer Club

Lyle & Joyce Powers Scholarship - Imlay City Schools
Alumni Association

Alumni Association

Romeo Community Schools

American Legion

Dan Barnabo

David Brockman

Mary Chinoski

Steven Fritz Sr. / Romeo Kiwanis

Ellis C. Haskell

Haskell Trust

Al Moran

Eldon Mueller Memorial

David L. Olson / Rotary Club

Julie Pihlaja Korb Memorial

Romeo Boosters Club

Sisson

Starkweather / Garvin

Tabar-Schultz

Watchdog

Ruth M. Sayles Memorial

George S. Souten Performing Arts

Vera Souten Medical Field

St. Clement Church & K of C #7018 College

Albert Himes & Jean Currey Stanwood Memorial

Brian Verstreate Memorial

Floyd W. West Memorial

Lewis Wilson Music Scholarship

Xi Gamma Rho of Beta Sigma Phi



represents a new fund

30TH ANNIVERSARY: LEGACY OF SERVICE



Dr. Carlos B. Gayles and Dr. Merle Haney had some catching up to do at our 30th Anniversary Event. Both doctors were present thirty years ago, when Four County Community Foundation was founded from the sale of the Community Hospital.



Board Trustee, Jason Verlinde and his son and YAC member, Noah, represent second- and third-generation involvement with 4CCF. Jason's father, Al Verlinde, was a Board Trustee from 2008-2014.



Jim Ligon Jr. (Board Trustee 2000-2004) and James T. Ligon Sr. (Board Trustee 1987-1995) joined us at the 30th Anniversary Event in May. James T. Ligon, Sr. served as our first Board President in 1987. As one of our "three-generation" families, the Ligons continue to give back to our community through their support of Four County Community Foundation.



Three generations! Jim Sillers and his daughter, Laura Schapman have both served on our Board of Trustees. Bret Schapman is on our current Board and Avis Schapman is a new member of the YAC.



Friends of 4CCF attend the 30th Anniversary Event. Norm Rumph, Mary and Steve Balsam, Board Treasurer, Peggy Domenick-Muscat, and Mike Muscat



Board Emeritus, Shane Diehl, Jerrie Bishop, and Dr. Carla Cook catch up on the good news from 4CCF.



Board Chair John Brzozowski, Emeritus Joe Salas, and Lou Miramonti discuss the future of philanthropy at our 30th Anniversary Event in May, 2017.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Focusing on Distracted Driving

Four County Community Foundation sponsored the Save A Life Tour at Almont High School last autumn. This safe driver awareness program, presented by Kramer Entertainment of Grand Rapids, allowed every student in grades 9-12 to experience the serious and dangerous consequences that result when texting and driving or drinking and driving.

The day-long program began with a survey and whole-school assembly. Videos and personal testimonials were shared from people who had lost family members to either drinking or texting while driving. Jason Cooper, of Kramer Entertainment, stated that the program "demonstrates potentially dangerous consequences resulting from poor choices and decisions made by drivers."

Throughout the day, groups of students experienced simulators and some were astonished at how their ability to drive safely was influenced by drinking or texting. For others, the simulators reinforced the importance of focusing on driving at all times when they are behind the wheel. Using the simulators required students to think more about the unintended consequences of distracted and drunk-driving.

At the conclusion of the day, students took a post-program survey that showed the positive effects of the videos, speakers, and simulation. Students overwhelmingly stated that the program increased their awareness of what it takes to be a safe driver. Eighty percent of students stated they were not likely or very unlikely to text and drive in the future, while over 90% were very unlikely to drink and drive.

The grant request was written by two students, members of Rachel's Challenge at AHS. The application was reviewed and recommended by our Youth Advisory Committee. Four County Community Foundation commends these students and their peers as they make safe choices while driving.







This Project is Raising HOPE



Project Raising HOPE is a cooperative program among Lapeer County Education & Technology students, the Lapeer FFA, and the Stone Soup Food Bank. The program provides food to families in need, but also education and training to agriscience and developmentally disabled students. The meat produced by the Ed-Tech Animal Center is donated to

and distributed by the Stone Soup Food Bank to families in need. Four County Community Foundation proudly funded the purchase of animals and supplies.

About sixty high school juniors and seniors in the agriscience program at the Lapeer Ed-Tech are educated at the Animal Center to raise cattle, pigs, lambs, goats, and chickens. The students are responsible for maintaining animal health along with feeding and sanitation. Second-year agriscience students also form partnerships with their "pals" from the Ed-Tech Center's special education programs.

Project Raising HOPE is beneficial to our community in many ways. The agriscience students receive hands-on education as they raise animals for meat. They also learn valuable life and work skills as they mentor their developmentally disabled peers. The special-education students are provided opportunities to explore a vocational interest and gain employability skills in a safe work environment, while interacting with their mentors and role models. The welfare of families in need is addressed as locally-grown, quality meat is available to them through the Stone Soup Food Bank. Last year, the program donated over 5,000 pounds of meat to Stone Soup, which provided over 20,000 meals to our Lapeer County community.

Four County Community Foundation applauds the efforts of all participants in this collaborative, ongoing effort. You can follow Project Raising HOPE on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Project-Raising-HOPE-261545237597382/





Encouraging A Beautiful Me

A Beautiful Me exists to promote confidence in girls so they become well-adjusted, empowered women who positively impact their schools, community, and society. Participants discover they are more than they previously thought; they stand taller, feel appreciated, and recognize their own dignity. A Beautiful Me's vision is to foster self-worth in women of all ages.

A Beautiful Me workshops and programs feature unique, interactive activities to foster a positive self-image. Each workshop is facilitated through a fun environment of music and hands-on participation. Four County Community Foundation granted funds to allow the four-part "be-YOU-tiful Workshop" for students at Romeo Community Schools in 2016. During the series, all participants are asked to complete a self-esteem survey during the first and fourth sessions. The data shows the growth of the participants' self-worth and confidence over the eight-hour workshop.

Young women who participate in *A Beautiful Me* programs leave with a positive attitude and the knowledge that their brilliance of self-worth comes from within!

Where Transition Begins

The Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST) provides homeless and displaced individuals with the primary essentials needed for daily living, as well as the opportunity to transition to independence. MCREST arranges food and safe shelter and advocates for the homeless and at-risk populations in Macomb County.

MCREST began in 1988 as a revolving homeless day camp with nine churches providing meals. By the end of that year, twelve churches committed to providing meals and overnight lodging. Nine more churches joined in the spring of 1989. Today, MCREST's *Congregational Membership* is made up of 90 churches of all denominations throughout Macomb County. The congregations provide safe overnight shelter for 30-60 individuals per week, along with meals, transportation, and laundry and shower facilities. Volunteers for the network of churches log hundreds of hours of time every week, providing compassionate assistance to homeless individuals and children.



MCREST's Supportive Housing Program locates safe, affordable rental housing and provides a portion of the first-year rent for those who have income and are working toward self-reliance. Collaborative case management may last up to 18 months. The Learning and Resource Center helps families and individuals apply for government assistance, job-readiness training and job-placement services with the help of a success coach.

Since 2005, Four County Community Foundation has supported MCREST's mission by granting to their programs in northern Macomb County. Over the last twelve years, our Four County Community Fund and our Joseph & Bertha Corrion Charitable Fund have devoted over \$75,000 to raise the standard of care for the homeless of Macomb County.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Safe Wheels and Heels

The McLaren-Oakland Foundation was the recipient of a 2016 grant from our Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth Fund to support their Safe Wheels and Heels program at Oxford Community Schools. Safe Wheels and Heels is an interactive assembly that educates second-grade students on bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, stranger danger, and when and how to call 911. The program's main objective is to reduce the number of children treated in the McLaren-Oakland emergency department for injuries related to bicycles, scooters, roller blades, and skateboards.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office, the Oxford Fire Department, Genisys Credit Union, and United Healthcare Community Plan provided volunteers to speak to the students about injury prevention. The volunteers ensured that each of the 307 second-graders left the assembly with a properly-fitted helmet. Later, the Oxford Fire Department handed out coupons for free ice cream to kids that were wearing their helmets while cycling or skating in their community.

The Safe Wheels and Heels program has been a whopping success! Students and families were asked to complete and return a survey. About 150 surveys were returned with 95% of parents reporting that their child verbalized the importance of wearing the helmet while biking, roller-skating, and skateboarding. Furthermore, at McLaren-Oakland, the rate of children, ages 6 to 10, treated for injuries related to wheeled sports decreased by 31%!





Keeping our Firefighters Safe

The North Oakland County Mutual Aid Association (NOCMAA) received a grant from Four County Community Foundation towards the purchase of an OSHA-required respirator fit test machine. This machine allows firefighters to quickly and easily test the effectiveness and fit of their respiratory equipment by measuring actual amounts of potentially dangerous leakage into their face piece. Each firefighter's respiratory equipment must be tested every twelve months to be sure that it fits correctly and is working properly.

Through this collaborative grant, the fit test machine will be shared among firefighters in Addison, Almont, Bruce, Dryden, Oakland, Orion, Oxford, Brandon, and Groveland Townships on a rotating schedule. In addition, the North Oakland Chiefs Association (NOCA) will have the machine recalibrated each year. Four County Community Foundation applauds NOCMAA and NOCA for their cooperative efforts to keep our local fire fighters safe while they are on the job!



Building Community through Gardening

This spring, Four County Community Foundation teamed up with the Council on Aging serving St. Clair County to build two raised-bed gardens at the Conrad Community Center in Capac. Volunteers constructed the gardens and prepared the area for planting. Senior volunteers then planted and tended the vegetables, including tomatoes, radishes, and basil. They reaped the harvest by late summer. Fresh produce was used for meals at the Conrad Center and for the Meals-on-Wheels program. As an added bonus, Capac area senior citizens increased their physical activity and enjoyed each other's company as they tended the garden.



Exploring Agriculture through Literature

Agriscience students at Capac High School enjoyed learning through literature thanks to a grant from Four County Community Foundation. Classroom sets of four great agricultural reads were purchased including the 1949 classic, *A Sand County Almanac*.



Reading the books was not only entertaining, but helped the students gain a richer understanding of global agricultural concepts. We are sure that agriscience students at Capac will enjoy these books for years to come!

Remembering April Millsap

The April Millsap Memorial Garden in Armada is a lovely reminder of a young girl who tragically lost her life while walking her dog on the Macomb Orchard Trail. Planted by volunteers, the garden is situated along the trail between Depot Street and the Armada Grain Co. In the 1890's, the area served as a loading dock for the trains that transported stock and grain. Today, it is a beautiful and bittersweet reminder of a young life that was lost too soon.

In 2016, Four County Community Foundation granted the April Millsap Memorial Garden the funds to construct an informational kiosk. It is in the shape of a caboose and painted red as a nod to the historical significance of the railroad line that is now the Macomb Orchard Trail. The grant covered the cost of building materials and a local company donated the labor to fabricate the laser-cut caboose. Volunteers installed the kiosk beside the trail.

Later in 2016, it became apparent that an irrigation system was necessary to keep the plants, trees, and shrubs well-watered. Volunteers had been transporting water, but in order to insure the garden's sustainability, and to potentially provide potable water to trail pedestrians, an irrigation system was installed with the help of an additional grant from Four County Community Foundation. Volunteers continue to raise funds to pay the water bills and to build a water refill station. The garden is thriving and each season shows off a colorful and peaceful place for birds, butterflies, and pedestrians.

This fall, the Second Annual Dog-Walk was held on the Macomb Orchard Trail in memory of April. Each participant was asked to gather sponsors and, on a beautiful Saturday in September, walkers and their dogs filled the trail. The Friends of the April Millsap Memorial Garden are hoping to use the proceeds to set up a scholarship fund in her name for graduates of Armada High School. April was a member of the Armada High School Class of 2018.





YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Everybody Wins!

The 4CCF Youth Advisory Committee is honored to have been a part of Capac-Imlay City Victory Day in both 2016 and 2017. Victory Day is an event which gives young people with cognitive and physical impairments a chance to practice and perform on the football field. Together with players and cheerleaders from both Imlay City and Capac, the children and young adults (ages 5-26 years) take to the field to score touchdowns and field goals and to cheer for their team

Each Victory Day participant is partnered with a CHS or ICHS football player or cheerleader who serves as their mentor and coach for the day. The marching bands from Capac and Imlay City perform and players enter the Capac Football Stadium through a tunnel of cheering fans. Names are announced as the kids take the field. A coin is tossed and each participant gets a chance to score a touchdown. After the game, players and their families enjoy a hotdog lunch with the mentors and coaches.

After the 2016 Victory Day, the sponsors received a letter of appreciation. Here are a few excerpts:

My son is 8 years old. He has Down syndrome and is mostly non-verbal. Just like all children, he wants to do what other kids are doing but he is really shy and often just stands by and watches them play.

When I saw a chance for him to be mentored, get out and play with others and be a sports star for the day, I was excited beyond words! I knew he would have fun and make some new friends. I never expected it to boost his confidence so significantly. He felt brave enough to walk up to a group of boys at recess and join their game of football!

Although this was only for a day, for us it is a life-long memory. I was overwhelmed by everything everyone did for us. I hope sharing how this has changed my little man will help you understand how grateful we are.









YAC Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment is a survey conducted every three years which is taken by every 7th, 9th, and 11th grade student in each of our six core school districts. The Needs Assessment brings attention to specific strengths and weaknesses in our communities, as seen by our students. With the survey results, the YAC works to support programs that uphold the positive areas and address the negative concerns that our youth are facing.

This year our overall results are:

Overall Positives:

Good Friends 26% Sports Facilities 17% School Activities 16% Other 41%

Overall Negatives:

School Environment (ex. Bullying) 20%
Technology (ex. Time spent on social media) 12%
Economy 11%
Driving 9%
Alcohol 8%
Peer to Peer 8%
Other 32%

Visit our website to see the complete report.

Fun Run!

YAC members were invited by Lapeer Ed Tech Special Education students to participate in a fun run at the Attica Township Park. We enjoyed being together to walk a mile on a beautiful fall day! It was nice to see old and new faces and we look forward to working with Lapeer Ed Tech again!

Mission Statement

Four County Community Foundation is committed to serving the current and emerging needs of our local community, continuing the tradition of philanthropy begun generations ago. The Foundation is dedicated to bringing together human and financial resources to support progressive ideas in education, health, community, youth, and adult programs. The Foundation provides a secure, flexible vehicle for individuals, families, foundations, and organizations to positively impact the quality of life in our community. The Foundation recognizes that, in order to meet its commitments to the community it serves, it must seek growth through its permanent endowment funds from a wide range of donors.

Legacy Society

We gratefully recognize those who ensure a legacy to the Foundation by planning their future gifts. These people are an encouragement to others to remember Four County Community Foundation in their charitable plans.

Janet Bauer

Mitch and Dawn Blonde

John and Connie Brzozowski

Marion and Robert Fischer

Grace Hill

Paul and Elsie Hinzmann

Ella Mae and Gertrude Murdie

Catherine and Dorothy Ondersma

Dr. James and Ann Sillers

Bernard Stremler, M.D.

Please contact the Foundation if you would like information on becoming a member of our Legacy Society.

Advisor's Circle

We want to recognize and thank the professional advisors who have worked with their clients to establish major gifts for the Foundation. Their work is indispensable. The numeral following each name indicates the number of gifts brought to Four County Community Foundation.

Thanks to:

Shane Diehl

Sebastian V. Grassi

Cynthia Lane

Ed Lynch, 3

Henry Malburg, 2

Sean O'Bryan, 7

Barb Quain

Ronald W. Rickard, 4



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