

# **2019 Report to the Community**



**Four County Community Foundation**



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*Executive Committee: Sheila McDonald, Peggy Domenick-Muscat, Jason Verlinde, and Bret Schapman*



*Staff: Kathy Dickens, Sara Kruger, Micaela Boomer, and Sarah Mousseau*



*YAC Officers: Hunter Haase and Noah Verlinde*

## Youth Advisory Committee

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

## Encouraging New Partnerships

As a child, was there anything more exciting than receiving a gift? A wagon, a bicycle, a doll, a book, or new shoes. We can all remember the excitement and warmth that filled our soul. We felt special and loved knowing that someone selected a gift especially for us. As we mature, our perspective changes. We feel happiest when we give gifts rather than receive them. Our hearts are warmed when we can give a gift that makes another person feel appreciated and important, if only for a few minutes in time.

Imagine the great happiness that comes when promoting the welfare of others in a significant and sustained way. That is the very service that Four County Community Foundation provides in our local communities. We connect the charitable interests and passions of our donors to non-profit organizations with those specific needs.

Whether you have a long-term vision or short-range goals, there are endless ways you can make a meaningful and sustained difference in your community:

*Would you like to make certain that local families don't go without food?*

*Perhaps you would like to put books in the hands of children who have none.*

*You might like to encourage health and wellness by funding local playgrounds or fitness trails.*

*Is there a special place in your heart for senior citizens or veterans?*

*Maybe you would like to enrich your local community with art and music.*

*Do you have a passion to support first-generation college students?*

*Would you like to help increase mental health services for people in need?*

If you feel called to support any of these efforts, or you have innovative ideas of your own, Four County Community Foundation is here to help you make a difference. We have been serving the community since 1987 and have awarded over \$9 million in local grants and scholarships. Whether you are just beginning your philanthropic journey or were taught the art of giving from previous generations, please consider partnering with Four County Community Foundation. To get started, simply visit us in our beautiful historical Octagon House in Almont, send us an email, or give us a call. We are eager to partner with you!

Kathy Dickens  
Executive Director

Jason Verlinde  
Chairperson





## The Dr. James and Ann Sillers Fund

*"Why Give?"* When asked this question, Dr. James Sillers, long-time Imlay City resident and local philanthropist, pauses to contemplate. Then, in his typical straightforward and candid manner, Jim's response is a lesson for all of us. *"Eventually, we will all die. We can leave our wealth or our financial portfolio for others to disburse, or we can take great joy in seeing our gifts impact people in need while we are still alive."* He reminds us that amassing huge financial wealth doesn't always result in happiness, but giving to others invariably results in feelings of fulfillment and joy. Jim continues to reflect and remembers how his mother was a very generous person. *"Perhaps giving is genetic or maybe it was simply something that I learned from my mother."* Either way, he couldn't imagine his life any other way.

Jim has served Four County Community Foundation since 1994 as a trustee and an emeritus board member. He is an active member of the Imlay City Rotary Club. For Jim and his late wife, Ann Sillers, giving back was a priority and a way of life in their family.

Jim has been involved in philanthropy on the local, national, and international level for many years. He has contributed to parks, schools, and athletic facilities, college tuition funds, and his alma mater, MSU. He has selflessly donated his time and resources to desperately-needed medical programs and facilities in countries around the world: Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, the Dominican Republic, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Yet, his acts of philanthropy are motivated not by public accolades, but by knowing that in some small way he has made a difference in the world. Indeed, the motto that he lives by is *"Leave the World a Better Place."*

Throughout his life, Jim has made a conscious effort to do things outside of his comfort zone. Seizing every available opportunity has taken him on some life-changing adventures. When he had the chance to trek to the base camp of Mt. Everest, his first thoughts were of his fear of heights and the fact that he had never camped a day in his life. But, he decided to go. While on the trip, Jim attended a Rotary Club meeting in Kathmandu. Each member of this particular club had pledged to pay for one cleft palate surgery per year. At the time, these surgeries were performed under local anesthetic when the child turned 16 years old. Seeing the dire necessity, Jim vowed to help raise funds to purchase anesthesia equipment so that the surgeries could be performed on infants. True to his promise, when he returned home,

Jim gave talks about his Mt. Everest experiences and solicited donations. In total, \$28,000 was raised for the project.

Jim quickly clarifies that *the importance of a gift is not dependent upon the amount, but the impact it has.* A gift of \$500 or less can profoundly change a person's life.

To continue his philanthropic efforts now and forever, Jim quietly established the *Dr. James and Ann Sillers Fund* at Four County Community Foundation in 2016. As an unrestricted endowment, he created the fund to fulfill any charitable purpose in our local community that is deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees.

*"Why give?"* For Jim, the answer is simple. *"Leave the World a Better Place."* It is Jim's hope that these stories and experiences will inspire you to give in meaningful ways and to positively impact the lives of others.



Ann and Jim Sillers in 2002



Dr. Laura Schapman and Dr. James Sillers



Jim gets the "Seal of Approval!"





## The Almont Historical Society Endowment and Project Fund

The Almont Community Historical Society (ACHS) was first formed in 1956 but ceased operation in the late 1970's. The Society was reformed in 1986 for the purpose of saving the museum building from being removed from the village. The Main Street building was turned over to the Historical Society in 1997 and the development of the museum began.

The Historical Society's mission is two-fold: to preserve the history of Almont and to operate the museum. The Society collects objects of historical value to the community and researches and writes the stories of Almont, its people, businesses, and events. Society members conduct presentations and walking tours with schools and interested citizens. They participate in local festivals and events held throughout the year. The Museum building is open most Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm.

To accomplish their mission, the Almont Historical Society Endowment and Project Fund was created in December 2018. As the name implies the fund has two components – endowment and project. The endowment is an investment fund. A portion of the income earned by this fund will be used to support the operational costs of the museum. The long term goal for the endowment component of the fund is to reach \$100,000 so that the ACHS has a source of funding now and forever.

The project portion of the fund is intended to cover the costs of immediate improvements to the museum. At present, there are three short-term improvement projects including: custom display cabinetry to better present the museum's collection, document preservation, and technology upgrades. Long-term, the Almont Community Historical Society Board hopes to expand storage and office space, and add additional display space.

To contribute to the Almont Historical Society Endowment and Project Fund, visit [www.4ccf.org](http://www.4ccf.org).





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position

for year ending  
December 31, 2018    December 31, 2017

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 674,423	\$ 787,561
Investments	13,766,313	15,207,097
Accounts Receivable	16,120	-
Beneficial Interest in Trust	179,000	140,000
Prepaid Expense	17,970	17,242
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation	129,495	134,331
Other Assets	1,632	1,409
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 14,784,953</b>	<b>\$ 16,287,640</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Grants Payable	\$ 89,700	\$ 95,411
Accounts Payable	8,546	13,042
Other Liabilities	4,021	3,037
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 102,267</b>	<b>\$ 111,490</b>
<b>Net Assets without Donor Restrictions</b>		
Donor-designated Endowment Funds	5,406,928	5,955,966
Board-designated Endowment Funds	8,905,514	9,814,657
Other Funds	370,244	405,527
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 14,682,686</b>	<b>\$ 16,176,150</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 14,784,953</b>	<b>\$ 16,287,640</b>

## Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

for year ending  
December 31, 2018    December 31, 2017

REVENUES		
Contributions	\$ 332,076	\$ 327,024
Investment Income, net of expenses	314,426	270,477
Realized and Unrealized Gains, net	(1,408,923)	1,947,892
Other Revenue	223	210
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ (762,198)</b>	<b>\$ 2,545,603</b>

EXPENSES		
<b>Program Services</b>		
Grants and Scholarships	\$ 465,967	\$ 399,175
Other Program Expenses	63,376	59,961
<b>Support Services</b>		
Management and General	181,928	157,874
Donor Development	19,995	19,836
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 731,266</b>	<b>\$ 636,846</b>

NET ASSETS		
Change in Net Assets	\$ (1,493,464)	\$ 1,908,757
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	16,176,150	14,267,393
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 14,682,686</b>	<b>\$ 16,176,150</b>

*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.*



A grant from Four County Community Foundation helped these students from Imlay City Middle School attend a live performance of Akeelah and the Bee at the Flint Youth Theater. Their smiles tell us it was a great investment!



Our donors continue to sponsor Capac High School's Mock Trial Team, and once again, the team earned numerous accolades at local and regional tournaments. Throughout the season, the Capac team members are complimented for their courtesy, respect, and professionalism. The Mock Trial Team has become a point of pride in the Capac community, as they excel in public-discourse, decision-making, and citizen-involvement. The Foundation applauds these students as they begin a new season.



## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Four County Community  
Jane E. Bishop Memorial  
Sam & Eleanor Mendola  
Dora & Toos Ondersma  
Dr. James & Ann Sillers

## ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS

Friends of the Foundation

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Romeo Community Schools Athletic Enhancement

## COMMUNITY FUNDS

Almont Education & Community  
Armada "Al Verlinde" Community  
Capac Community  
Dryden/Metamora Community  
Imlay City Community  
Romeo Community Action

## DESIGNATED AGENCY FUNDS

Almont Historical Society Endowment & Project Fund  
Family Literacy Center of Lapeer County  
Roland W. Graubner Endowment for the Romeo District Library  
Imlay City Historical Commission  
Romeo Community Archives  
Symphonia Chorale Endowment

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

American Tree - Brzowski Family  
"Stay Strong Stan"-Stanley Ian Babinski Memorial  
Andy Beam Memorial  
G. Clare & Jane W. Bishop Memorial  
Capac Adolescents Preventing Abuse & Crime  
Joseph & Bertha Corrión Charitable  
Linda Muir Grant - Imlay City Schools Alumni Association  
Victoria E. Hill Memorial  
Imlay Area Christian Community  
Imlay City Schools Alumni Association  
Ligon Brothers  
Marshall & Ilene Lock  
McGeorge Memorial  
James A. and Marilyn K. Ottevaere  
Gail Rickard Foundation  
Romeo Historical Society / Charles E. Keller  
Dr. Bernard J. Stremmer Memorial  
Waterloo Hunt Club Donor Advised  
Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Foundation

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

21st Century Education  
21st Century Education - Almont Area  
21st Century Education - Armada Area  
21st Century Education - Capac Area  
21st Century Education - Dryden Area  
21st Century Education - Imlay City Area  
21st Century Education - Romeo Area  
Armada Education Foundation  
Capac Athletic Boosters Scholarship Endowment  
Capac Educational Endowment  
Darin Conrad Education  
Dennis Family  
Linda M. Felton Memorial  
Four County Community Foundation Home

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Four County Environmental  
Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth  
Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth 2  
Imlay City Educational Endowment  
W. K. Kellogg Youth  
Lapeer Regional Hospital Endowment  
April Millsap Memorial  
Harry Moore Scholarship  
James E. Neely Scholarship  
Rhonda Nugent Memorial  
Richmond Athletic Club Endowment  
Richmond Rotary Foundation Robert "Tiger" Fruin Memorial  
Lloyd Veitch  
Loral Watson Memorial Endowment  
The Women's Fund

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

American Legion Scholarship  
Dan Barnabo Scholarship  
Nancy B. Barr Scholarship  
John R. & Iris M. Bartholomew & Polly Ann Boldt Scholarship  
The Blonde Scholarship  
David Brockman Scholarship  
Justin C. "Jut" Bullock Memorial Scholarship  
Harry Bussell Scholarship  
Capac Youth Scholarship  
Mary Chinoski Scholarship  
Cryderman-Hebblewhite Agriculture Scholarship  
Howard & Marie Dahn Scholarship  
Marion & Robert Fischer Scholarship  
Steven Fritz Sr. Memorial / Romeo Kiwanis Scholarship  
Grettenberger Scholarship  
Ellis C. Haskell Scholarship  
Haskell Trust Scholarship  
Hilda M. Hill Memorial Scholarship  
Ruth Isaacson Memorial Scholarship  
Knights of Columbus Council #7018 Roman Catholic Scholarship  
Laurie Lee Memorial Scholarship  
Russell W. Ligon Memorial Engineering Scholarship  
Michigan Association of Professional Insurance Agents Scholarship  
Al Moran Scholarship Award  
William & Betty Morrison Memorial Scholarship  
Eldon Mueller Memorial Scholarship  
Murdie Educational Scholarship  
North Macomb Soccer Club Scholarship  
David L. Olson / Rotary Club Scholarship  
Karras Pelfrey Memorial Scholarship  
Julie Pihlaja Korb Memorial Scholarship  
Lyle & Joyce Powers Scholarship - Imlay City Schools Alumni Association  
Romeo Boosters Club Scholarship  
Ruth M. Sayles Memorial Scholarship  
Sisson Scholarship  
Glenn L. Smith II Memorial Scholarship  
George S. Souten Scholarship  
Vera Souten Medical Field Scholarship  
Albert Himes & Jean Currey Stanwood Memorial Scholarship  
Starkweather / Garvin Scholarship  
St. Clement Church & K of C Council #7018 College Scholarship  
Tabar-Schultz Scholarship  
Brian Verstrete Memorial Scholarship  
Watchdog Scholarship  
Floyd W. West Memorial Scholarship  
Lee Weyer Athletic Scholarship  
Richard P. Wheeler Scholarship  
Lewis Wilson Music Scholarship  
Xi Gamma Rho of Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship



# HELPING



Our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) awarded a grant to the Lions Bear Lake Camp, which provides educational and recreational services for children with special needs.



The camperships help sight- and hearing-impaired children from our community, where they develop the skills necessary to participate in a variety of outdoor activities, including a thrilling ride on a 325-foot zipline!



Our Foundation worked with Lakestone Bank to provide resources for deserving individuals and families. For Garden Project 360, volunteers built and planted raised-bed gardens for use at the Capac senior apartments.



Residents took part in educational workshops on gardening, nutrition, and food preparation. As the gardens grew, residents were able to harvest fresh vegetables for their meals.



The Foundation's collaborative partnership with Lakestone Bank awarded a grant to Samaritan House with the help of students at Romeo Community Schools. The elementary and middle school students got into the holiday-giving spirit by participating in a coin drive. The Foundation and Lakestone Bank matched what the students raised, and the food pantry at Samaritan House was well-stocked for the season! Representatives of the Foundation, Lakestone Bank, and RCS were on hand to present the BIG check to Samaritan House.



A grant from Four County Community Foundation got the Jr. Raider Trader shop up and running. Now, students can purchase school supplies and spirit wear during the week.



Proceeds help stock the store with food and clothing for needy Almont Middle School students. In addition, students learn how to track the stock and balance the books. Awesome!



# O U R



Every spring, sixth-grade students from Almont attend Camp Lael. In 2018, the Foundation helped keep the trip affordable for all families by granting funds for bus transportation to and from the camp.



At Camp Lael, students and family members participate in pond-dipping, fire-making, square-dancing, and other activities that enhance the curriculum and build community. That is one big frog!



With increasing transportation costs, many schools have given up sending students on field trips. Thanks to our donors, hundreds of our K-12 students get outside and learn at Wolcott Mill and Stony Creek Metroparks every year!



While performing everyday chores in a traditional way, these students are discovering more about life as a settler in Michigan.



Four County Community Foundation sponsors field trip transportation and fees for our area school districts to visit Seven Ponds Nature Center. This group of students participated in Annie's BIG Nature Lesson, five days of observation and student-driven research. All lessons correlate to the core curriculum and connect students with their natural community.

Four County Community Foundation sponsors monthly Family Activity Nights at Turning Point, Inc. Turning Point, Inc. serves families who have experienced domestic violence. The evening includes food and fun activities and crafts, like making yourself into an emoji!





# COMMUNITY



Almont's young engineers can make almost anything with their new 3-D printer. Four County Community Foundation partnered with Lapeer County Community Foundation to provide funds to purchase the printer. Now, students are making parts to solve real-world problems in their school!



Armada Middle School eighth-graders use new reading software to assist with comprehension and grammar skills. The IXL Language software allows students to advance through lessons at the ideal pace while tracking their progress and offering encouragement along the way.



In 2018, the Richmond High School FIRST Robotics team advanced to the World Competition in Detroit. They were able to make it to Ford Field to participate, thanks to a pro-active grant from Four County Community Foundation.



RHS future engineers and programmers awaiting their scores...they took second at the Detroit World Championship! Great job!



At Dryden Junior/Senior High School, we ARE Rocket Scientists! An education grant from the Foundation allowed for the purchase of model rocket kits for math class. Students utilized their knowledge of gravity, trajectory, velocity, and acceleration to make predictions related to the maximum height, length of the flight, and where the rocket would land.



# G R O W !



Our donors support comprehensive education for all students. The Foundation granted funds to Hevel Elementary School for their after-school Makerspace Club.



The Club is open to all students in grades K-5 and encourages investigation, problem-solving, construction, and design. We are not sure how much taller this tower got, but it sure looks like FUN!



Imlay City Middle School students were able to meet and participate in a two-day writing workshop with author/illustrator, Tom Woodruff. Each grade level (6-8) attended an assembly with Mr. Woodruff, where he shared his passion for illustrating. In addition, students attended workshops, where they gained knowledge about how to create illustrations which tell a story. Mr. Woodruff's visit brought a new energy to the Language Arts classes and likely inspired some future authors.



The Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee awards grants to area high schools every year in an effort to keep our high school seniors safe and entertained on graduation night.



This is how you get through the Senior All-Night Party when you are the chaperone!



These Capac Elementary School students love to read. They read so many books they were rewarded with a trip to the bowling alley. Even between strikes and spares, it looks like they kept on reading. Good job, kids!



# YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## 2019-2020 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Going strong and  
giving back  
for 29 years!



Our Youth Advisory Committee recently met to plan the 2019 Needs Assessment. The survey, conducted every three years, gathers data from seventh, ninth, and eleventh grade students in all of our local school districts. The Needs Assessment brings attention to the specific concerns of youth in our communities. We will use the information to target our grant funding toward programs which address the essential concerns expressed by the students. The Needs Assessment will be administered late in 2019 and results will be shared with the community in early 2020.

The Youth Advisory Committee collected thousands of plastic bags. We made the bags into plarn (plastic yarn). The plarn was sent off to be made into sleeping mats for those in need.



YAC members helped pass out more than 300 backpacks to students in need as they geared up for going back to school!



YAC students consider literacy a top priority in our communities. We had a great time reading to students at Capac Elementary School.





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## 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. The following 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

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

Many 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