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WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

A newsletter from Four County Community Foundation

SPRING 2023



Celebrating the official launch of Rides to Wellness by GLTA were 4CCF Executive Director Kathy Dickens, second from left, and representatives from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Greater Lapeer Transportation Authority, Lapeer County Community Foundation, and United Way of Lapeer County.

Coalition helps launch Rides to Wellness

A new Lapeer County program, Rides to Wellness by GLTA, seeks to help residents overcome mobility challenges and access the goods and services that benefit their health.

Rides to Wellness by GLTA is an easy-to-use service that's designed to transport Lapeer County residents to medical and health-related appointments, plus other locations that foster wellness such as pharmacies, grocery stores, farmers markets and various community resources. The new service, administered by the Greater Lapeer Transportation Authority, comes with a one-way fee of \$15 in Lapeer County with a higher fee for out-of-county rides but financial assistance is often available. Funding assistance for trip costs has been provided by the Michigan Transportation Connection.

Taking part in a March ribbon cutting ceremony were participants in a Lapeer County transportation coalition who examined public transportation needs within the community over a period of several years. Those coalition members who contributed significant time and funding toward the initiative include Four County Community Foundation, Lapeer County Community Foundation and United Way of Lapeer County who all gave matching grant dollars to help purchase the Rides to Wellness by GLTA vehicles.

Four County Community Foundation (4CCF) began addressing transportation needs in Lapeer County, particularly among senior citizens in the Imlay City and Almont areas, after it was identified in a 2019 community needs assessment.

4CCF Executive Director Kathy Dickens applied for and was awarded a \$96,000-plus Michigan Health Endowment Collaborate Grant and with it the coalition was able to hire a consultant, RLS & Associates, to coordinate community input meetings and help create the plan. In the fall of 2021, those meetings were held at locations across Lapeer County and feedback from those sessions indicated that transportation to medical appointments was the most critical need.

COALITION: CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

First quarter grants assist local residents, organizations

Earlier this year, Four County Community Foundation's Board of Trustees gave their approval to more than 20 grant requests for the first quarter of 2023.

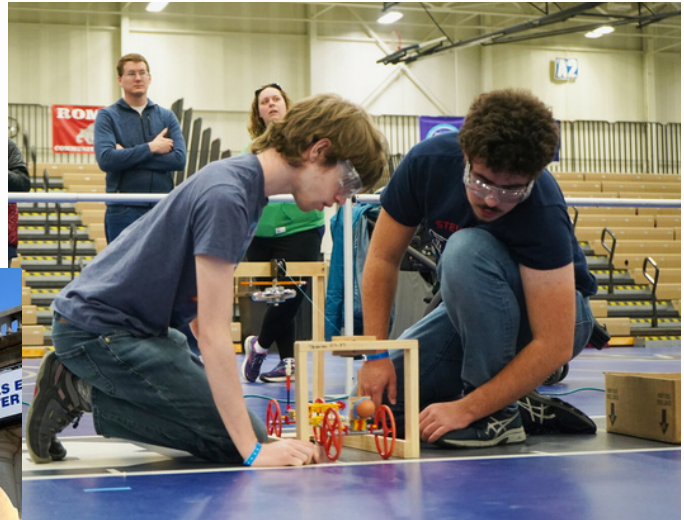
Those projects awarded funding to address food security include Bruce Township's Simpson Park Camp mobile soup kitchen which plans to purchase a commercial refrigerator/freezer and Oxford's Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ's food pantry and meal program, Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Recreational opportunities will also be expanded thanks to foundation dollars. The village of Capac was granted dollars to develop a new pocket park and Oxford Township received funds to create the Helen Smith Park. Grant dollars were also given to the American Diabetes Association for scholarships and tuition subsidies for attendees of Camp Midicha and the Lions Visually Impaired Youth Camp received funding towards the construction of a climbing course. The Imlay City Youth Football program was granted dollars towards the purchase of new helmets.

Local youth will be able to explore the arts and sciences through various grant-funded initiatives including Macomb Science Olympiad's 2023 tournament season, Memphis Community School's STEM Learning Lab and Borland Elementary School's Roald Dahl Family Book Club. Additionally, Imlay City High School's fine arts program was awarded grant dollars to purchase choir robes and tap dance shoes; the Almont Robotics program was assisted in purchasing an equipment trailer and Capac Elementary School received funding to acquire art show supplies.

Agencies and organizations awarded first quarter funding include Susie Q's Kids for the provision of Comfort Bags to the Child Advocacy Center of Lapeer County; All-Ways Care Services Inc. for supplies and storage equipment for their Community Closet and Trinity Community Care for medical and dental care program support. The Armada Lions Club utilized grant funding for building repairs.

The Armada Lions Club utilized grant funding to reinforce and clean the exterior of their historic building.



Macomb Science Olympiad participants at a 2023 tournament.

COALITION: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



In 2022, Dickens was successful in the foundation's application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Micro Transit Pilot Grant. Those dollars—\$70,000—plus matching funds of \$20,000 each contributed by 4CCF, Lapeer County Community Foundation and United Way of Lapeer County, allowed GLTA to purchase two vehicles.

For more information about Rides to Wellness by GLTA or to schedule a ride, contact Stephanie Hamilton at (810) 664-4566, ext. 206 or visit go-glta.org.

Swing a club for Imagination Library

Enjoy a day on the links while supporting a great cause at the Four County Community Foundation Imagination Library Fund Golf Outing on Friday, June 9 at Castle Creek Golf Club in Attica. Currently, organizers are looking to secure event sponsors and have golfers register to play.

The day starts at 8 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast. Teams will tee off simultaneously at 9 a.m. and can break for a hot dog lunch on the turn. All golfers will also receive a gift bag and two drink tickets. When all the teams have played 18 holes and returned to the club house, sometime around 2:30 p.m., an awards presentation will take place where trophies will be handed out for longest drive, closest to the pin and overall winner.

Golfers can either register individually for \$75 or as a team of four for \$275. Golfing for four is also included for any individual or business who wishes to become a Title Sponsor.

All Hole Sponsors, who give \$100, will be acknowledged with a hole sponsor sign and there's no limit as to how many hole sponsorships an individual or business would like to register for!

Trophy Sponsors, for a donation of \$150, will also be acknowledged with signage and have their brand or name featured on the trophies handed out that day.

Title Sponsorships of \$1,500 will entitle the donor to having their name or brand featured in advertising and signage, along with two hole sponsor signs, plus golfing for four.

Imagination Library is a book gifting program created by well-known performer Dolly Parton. Free age appropriate, high-quality books are mailed to children every month regardless of their family's income. Four County Community Foundation serves as an Imagination Library affiliate for Macomb, Oakland and Lapeer counties. To date, 4CCF volunteers have helped register more than 700 local children from 0 to five years of age in the Imagination Library program.

Registration and sponsorship forms are due by May 31. They can be found online at www.4ccf.org/news. Completed forms and payments can be sent to Four County Community Foundation at PO Box 539, Almont, MI 48003.



Match made!

In March, Friends of the Romeo District Library launched a matching campaign that helped raise more than \$5,000 for Four County Community Foundation's Imagination Library Fund.

The Friends group promised to match up to \$2,500 in donations to Imagination Library that month and supporters of the book gifting program came through with more than \$4,500 in contributions. Among the donors was the Armada High School Theatre Department. Thespians collected donations during intermission of their spring production of 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (Revised) (Again)'

Women's Fund to boost Friends of Foster Kids

The Women's Fund of Four County Community Foundation invites their supporters to save the date for October 12. That's when they'll host a dinner to honor Friends of Foster Kids at Capital Banquet Center in Washington, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Foster Kids is non-profit organization based in Macomb County that supports foster children and foster families, including those foster youth who are leaving the foster care system either to attend college or start an independent life. The Women's Fund intends to direct proceeds from the October 12 dinner to support young women from our service area at that important stage in their lives.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Organizers are also looking to secure sponsors for the event with packages including dinner tickets, signage at the event and recognition in the program booklet. Look for more details in the next 4CCF newsletter.

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code (at right) or send a check to Four County Community Foundation--Women's Fund, PO Box 539, Almont MI 48003.





231 E. ST. CLAIR
PO BOX 539
ALMONT, MI 48003-0539

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROMEO, MI
PERMIT NO. 34

PHONE: 810-798-0909

FAX: 810-798-0908

EMAIL: KDICKENS@4CCF.ORG

WWW.4CCF.ORG

Grant dollars in action!



Macomb Township's new pool lift has been installed (left), Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ's Neighbors Helping Neighbors is helping feed those in need in Oxford (center) and Imlay City High School students are enjoying a new afterschool Music Club (bottom) all thanks to 4CCF grant dollars.

Planned giving at 4CCF

Did you know there are multiple ways to make a planned gift to Four County Community Foundation? Bequests, gifts of life insurance and gifts of appreciated stock are all great options we hope you'll consider!

To learn more, visit 4ccf.org/donors/planned-giving or call (810) 798-0909.

