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WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

A newsletter from Four County Community Foundation

WINTER 2023



4CCF partners with MSHDA to build home in Imlay City

In a matter of hours, a vacant lot on P.O. & N. Street in the city of Imlay City was transformed into the site for a brand new three-bedroom home. Watching the crane and crew place the modular sections into place on a frigid February morning were Four County Community Foundation staff and board members along with Michigan State Housing Development Authority representatives—the two entities who partnered together to make this unique home building project possible.

In 2021, the Foundation applied for and was awarded funding through the Michigan State House Development Authority's (MSHDA) MOD program which aims to expand local housing options for the middle-class workforce by utilizing modular products.

"Affordable, clean and functional housing is a critical need for the four counties that Four County Community Foundation serves. We are hopeful that this new home offered will serve as the first in a line of many affordable housing projects in which the Foundation may participate," said Tricia Dennis, the Foundation's Board of Trustees Vice Chairperson.

Trustee Chad Stoldt concurred saying, "Imlay City is a great place to live and raise a family, but like the rest of the country, they have a housing shortage. If the Foundation can help provide affordable housing, bring people to the community and get kids in our excellent schools—that's a win for everyone."

To learn more about this project, please visit www.4ccf.org/news.



Board honors members' service

In 2023, the Foundation's board of trustees recognized the service of two longtime members. Treasurer Peggy Domenick-Muscat's term concluded and Bret Schapman handed over the chairperson's gavel.

Peggy's nine years of service was honored in November 2022 at the Foundation's Night of Thanks event in Metamora. She plans to serve as an emeritus board member on several committees going forward.

"I'm very proud to be involved with all of you," she told the board at their January meeting.

At the conclusion of the last meeting he chaired in January, Bret was presented with a plaque by incoming Chairperson Ken Hummel.

He said he envisions the Foundation will continue to serve as "courageous innovator" in the community. "It's been an honor and privilege to serve," Bret added. He remains a board trustee.



The board's newest member and Treasurer is Johanna Nuculovic. Johanna is an assistant vice president and branch manager with ChoiceOne Bank in Almont. She's worked in the banking industry for 24 years and previously served on the Almont Chamber of Commerce and Almont Downtown Development Authority boards. At present she gives of her time as a member of the Lapeer County United Way's Board of Directors.



Kathy Dickens (right) honors the service of Peggy Domenick-Muscat.



Ken Hummel (left) presents outgoing Chairperson Bret Schapman with plaque.

YAC alumni invited to May reunion

For more than three decades, local youth have made an impact in their communities as members of Four County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). To celebrate the legacy of philanthropy that group has built, current and former YAC members are being invited to gather for a YAC Reunion later this year.

In the weeks and months leading up to the reunion, Foundation staff and alumni organizers are hoping to connect with former YAC members, get updated contact information for them and make a personal invitation for the gathering that's slated for Saturday, May 13, at Blake's Backyard in Almont.

"Being able to connect with fellow YAC alums at last year's reunion was a highlight of mine. Even though we may be linked through social media, having had the opportunity to reminisce in-person sparked a heartfelt nostalgia that I would encourage others to seek out at this year's YAC reunion on May 13th," said YAC alumnus MaryRose Clark. She and fellow former members Tiffany Ellis and Jeff Van Wormer are helping make plans for the reunion.

All former YAC members are encouraged to reach out to Kathy Dickens, Four County Community Foundation Executive Director, at (810) 798-0909 or kdickens@4ccf.org to ensure we have their updated contact information.

Save the date!

4CCF's Women's Fund is hosting an event on October 12 at the Capital Banquet Center in Romeo to benefit Friends of Foster Kids. Look for more information, including details on purchasing tickets, in a future edition of this newsletter.

Return to Earn in 2023

Four County Community Foundation's Return to Earn internship program is looking to help local businesses and students connect through its talent retention initiative. 4CCF can help cover up to 50 percent of the interns' salary. Interested in participating? Please contact Kathy Dickens at (810) 798-0909 or kdickens@4ccf.org.

Plans being made for Hana's Garden

The family of Hana St. Juliana has announced plans to create Hana's Garden, a space designed to honor Hana and three other teens who died in a November 2021 shooting at Oxford High School. Work on the garden is expected to begin in the spring of 2023. It will be located at the Seymour Lake Township Park in Oxford.

"The purpose of Hana's Garden is to have a place for the community to remember the four students lost. We don't want them or what happened to them to be forgotten," said Steve St. Juliana, Hana's father.

He said the garden will be divided into four sections, one for each of the teens. Family members have been asked for ideas to incorporate into those garden sections that reminds them of their loved one. The other victims include Madisyn Baldwin, Tate Myre and Justin Shilling.

The garden will represent the first project of the Hana St. Juliana Memorial Fund, a fund held and administered by Four County Community Foundation. The fund's intent is to remember and celebrate the lives of the Oxford High School shooting victims and support initiatives that can prevent a similar tragedy in the future. Donations to the fund can be made at www.4ccf.org/donate-online/.



New fund supports performing arts

Four County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the new Imlay City Schools Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts. An anonymous donor has stepped forward as the founding contributor and they are encouraging others in the community who value the arts to consider supporting the new fund as well.

The vision of the new fund is to widen the opportunity for students and the Imlay City community to explore and engage in the arts—something that will be enhanced in the coming months with the completion of Imlay City School's new Performing Arts Center, a project made possible by a 2019 voter-approved bond.

The fund's intent is to "seed" future monetary awards and supplement the costs of extra expenses for student productions, like quality costuming and professional makeup services, while also facilitating the ability to host quality performing arts groups to the new Performing Arts Center.

"The fund can serve as a 'starting place' for quality productions for both students and the greater community," the donor stated, noting that ticket sales can eventually help bolster performing arts funding in Imlay City.

"For anyone who is interested in the arts and wanting to see the Performing Arts Center become a vibrant place in the community, this fund can be a home for their giving."

Fund dollars can also be utilized as matching funds, allowing the school district to apply for grants from other sources. Donations to the fund can be made at www.4ccf.org/donate-online/.



YAC plans March fundraiser

Members of 4CCF's Youth Advisory Committee are heading up a fundraiser for Susie Q's Kids during the month of March. Monetary donations will be used to create comfort bags for children in need. YAC members will then volunteer their time to pack comfort bags. Look for donation details in your inbox and on Facebook.



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Grant dollars in action!



Using 4CCF grant dollars, Armada Schools was able to host mental health presenter Anthony Grupido (far left), Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center was a field trip destination for Romeo kindergarten students (left) and Shelby Township Police Department's Women's Self-Defense Program purchased new simulation protective equipment.

Do we have your email address?

There's not enough room in our print newsletters to share all of the good things happening at 4CCF!

Contact Maria Brown at mbrown@4ccf.org if you'd like to receive this newsletter and other communication, including a 2023 Donor Survey, from us via email.

