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# WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

A newsletter from Four County Community Foundation

SUMMER 2023



## 4CCF recognizes scholarship recipients

In May, Four County Community Foundation celebrated 2023 scholarship recipients and their accomplishments at a luncheon held at The Bells Event Center in Almont.

Kathy Dickens, the Foundation's Executive Director, said the event is a chance for donors and scholarship recipients to connect.

She noted that the Foundation is fortunate to have many scholarship fund founders who've declared they want to "pay it forward forever" and are investing in the future of local graduates, some of whom they may never meet.

In 2023, Four County Community Foundation granted more than \$326,000 in scholarship dollars to students from our service area who are bound for colleges, universities and trade schools.

The 2024 scholarship application portal—found at [www.4ccf.org](http://www.4ccf.org)—opens December 1, 2023. Applications are due March 1, 2024.



*Hilda Hill Scholarship recipients (top) pose for a photo with representative Grace Hill; Kathy Dickens welcomes students and their families (above) and James Preisel Memorial Scholarship recipient Brooklyn Ross had the chance to meet Kim Preisel Clendenan and Steven Preisel (right).*



# Second quarter grant dollars span service area

In April, Four County Community Foundation's Board of Trustees approved second quarter grant awards.

Recipients of those dollars include:

- Love INC of North Oakland County for website redesign and social media management costs
- Macomb Symphony Orchestra to provide a free summer concert at Stony Creek Metropark
- Starkweather Arts Center to supply class materials for an Empty Bowls/ Summer of Clay initiative
- Dryden Community Schools for One School One Book reading month activities in March 2024 and the creation of a School Zone warning system for the Jr./Sr. High School
- Berlin Township for two benches to be placed near the Senior Center entrance
- Rotary Club of Romeo to encourage participation in the Ray Township Park Story Walk program
- Senior All-Night events for Almont, Capac, Imlay City and Oxford students
- Armada High School Hiking Club to purchase tents
- City of Richmond for their annual Chili Cook-Off
- Symphonia Chorale program support



*Visitors to the Berlin Township Senior Center are enjoying two new benches installed near the building's entrance.*

*In June, the Macomb Symphony Orchestra hosted a free 'Celebrate America' concert.*



## Save the date for October 12!

There's still time to become an event sponsor or purchase tickets for Women's Fund dinner for Friends of Foster Kids on October 12 at Capital Banquet Hall in Washington Twp., beginning at 6:30 p.m.



The event will include a buffet dinner with wine and beer service, followed by a short program. Proceeds from the event will be directed to Friends of Foster Kids, a non-profit organization based in Macomb County, with the intent to help young women leaving the foster care system either to attend college or start an independent life.

Tickets are \$100 per person and must be purchased in advance. Everyone is welcome to attend, including men!

Event sponsorship opportunities for individuals or businesses are offered at three levels: Bronze (\$250-499), Gold (\$500-999) and Platinum (\$1,000 and above). Signage at the event and recognition in the program booklet are included in all three packages with Gold and Platinum sponsors also receiving dinner tickets.

To request a ticket order form or learn more about sponsorship levels, contact Susan Gainer at (586) 770-3484, send an email to [thewomensfund.4ccf@gmail.com](mailto:thewomensfund.4ccf@gmail.com) or visit the foundation's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/4CountyCommunityFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/4CountyCommunityFoundation).



### Capac students complete mental health training

Four County Community Foundation is celebrating the news that a second cohort of students has completed teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) training.

A total of 12 members of Capac High School's 988 group are now certified in the program that helps teens learn how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance abuse challenges among themselves, their friends and peers.

Funding is available for two remaining student groups to take part in tMHFA. To inquire about this opportunity, contact Kathy Dickens at [kdickens@4ccf.org](mailto:kdickens@4ccf.org) or (810) 798-0909.



## New equestrian fund created

Harness Your Equestrian Experience, a field of interest fund, was recently established with Four County Community Foundation by Leon and Anne LaBrecque. The goal of the Harnessing Your Equestrian Experience fund is to make equestrian sports accessible to more people, particularly local youth.

The LaBrecques foresee working with high school and college level equestrian teams, 4-H clubs and organizations that connects kids with horses. Projects could range from covering the costs of supplies and other horse care necessities to excursions or veterinary science learning opportunities. The couple also plans to host fundraisers to benefit the Harnessing Your Equestrian Experience Fund to include all disciplines from English to Western. Additionally, they look forward to collaborating with other equestrian enthusiasts, including local trainers, to spark interest in the fund's efforts.



To donate to the Harness Your Equestrian Experience Fund at Four County Community Foundation, visit <https://bit.ly/EquestrianExperience> or visit <https://www.4ccf.org/donate-online/> and select 'Field of Interest Funds' and then 'Harnessing Your Equestrian Experience.' Checks can also be sent to Four County Community Foundation at PO Box 539, Almont MI 48003.



## Work to begin on Hana's Garden

Despite the threat of rain, a large crowd turned out to mark the ground breaking for Hana's Garden at Oxford Township's Seymour Lake Township Park on August 6. Hana's Garden is the first project of the Hana St. Juliana Memorial Fund and will honor the memory of Hana and the other three victims of the Oxford High School shooting—Madisyn Baldwin, Tate Myre and Justin Shilling. The space will include a water feature, a variety of unique and native plants—many in Hana's favorite color, purple—and a tree sculpture with four rings representing each of the teens. Work is expected to start this fall and the garden should open to the public in the spring of 2024.

## Hospice group establishes agency fund

In June, Four County Community Foundation announced the establishment of a new agency fund—Hospice Homes of Genesee and Lapeer Counties.

As their name suggests, Hospice Home volunteers are committed to creating a guest home where Genesee and Lapeer County residents can live out their last days, instead of a hospital.

At present group founder Diane Welker and fellow board members are collecting donations and hosting fundraisers with the hopes of securing a facility for purchase or rent. They plan to host no more than five patients at a time and need a space that will allow for the usage of medical equipment, particularly stretchers or gurneys. Individuals of the guest home won't be charged and will have their choice from more than a dozen area hospice agencies for care. The home will be staffed by caregivers and volunteers who will be focused on caring for both the individual and their families. Priority will be given to those considered in the greatest need of care.

For more information about Hospice Homes of Genesee and Lapeer Counties, visit [hospicehomes.org](https://hospicehomes.org) or find them on Facebook at 'Hospice Homes of Genesee and Lapeer Counties.' To donate to the Hospice Homes of Genesee and Lapeer Counties Fund, visit <https://www.4ccf.org/donate-online/> and select 'Agency and Designated Funds' and 'Hospice Homes of Genesee and Lapeer Counties.' Checks can also be sent to Four County Community Foundation at 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

## Golf outing a success!



More than \$8,600 was raised for Four County Community Foundation's Imagination Library Fund at the Foundation's annual golf outing in June at Castle Creek Golf Club in Attica. Golfers enjoyed beautiful weather, posed for photos with a likeness of Imagination Library founder Dolly Parton and collected a variety of trophies and prizes. Many thanks to Imagination Library committee members who put in countless hours to plan and execute this year's event including securing title, trophy and hole sponsorships!

