Dear Friends,

As we turn the calendar to 2020, we here at the foundation want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and support during our twentieth anniversary. Your contributions have shown us how important Allendale is to you and how many of you hold this community close to your hearts.

Last fall, we granted $8,042, which includes seventeen teacher mini-grants to Allendale Christian School. The projects and programs featured this year will make a big difference in those classrooms.

The Greatest Needs Fund allows us to invest in our community in a flexible and impactful way. When you establish or add to an existing Greatest Needs Fund, your gift addresses a broad range of critical needs, including future needs that cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

Public support through donations, volunteer time, or even through spreading awareness are all important to the success of our mission. Allendale’s future is directly improved by your contributions. All contributions are tax deductible and you can be assured that all support will stay right here in our community.

We are here for good, for ever, for Allendale!

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer, Chair, Allendale Community Foundation

Chairperson’s Letter

Scholarship Deadline: February 28, 2020

The scholarship application is now open! Allendale Community Foundation scholarships are awarded competitively based on criteria set by donors. These criteria could include financial need, the school the applicant is attending, academic achievement, as well as personal or career goals. The community foundation has a rigorous internal selection process for each scholarship decision, and each applicant is reviewed in depth and considered thoroughly.

Our scholarship program is streamlined so you only need to fill out one application. Once your application is submitted, you will be eligible for all those for which you meet the requirement.

Incentivized deadline is February 14, 2020.
Visit www.ghacf.org/scholarships/ for more information.

Would you like to learn more about opening a fund or how you can give?
Contact Chris Riker at criker@ghacf.org or 616-842-6378 x102.
Or donate online at allendale-cf.org.
Foundation Grants $8,042 to Area Nonprofits

This past fall, we awarded $8,042 in grants to support the Allendale community, including $1,300 to Arbor Circle for their OSAP Parent Education program, which will promote two campaigns: TalkSooner and Safe Prom. Both campaigns will provide parents, guardians, and caregivers with the data and trends regarding teenage substance abuse and mental health.

They will also strengthen and expand upon the work of the northeast quadrant of Ottawa County’s Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OSAP). OSAP utilizes parents as the primary prevention tool in regard to teen and youth substance abuse and addiction.

In addition to 17 teacher mini-grants (listed to the right), $2,900 was granted to Allendale Public School, Allendale High School for the “Allendale Robotics VEX IQ Program,” a volunteer-led student organization that includes students from Allendale, Jenison, Hudsonville, and Coopersville area schools, as well as homeschoolers. This grant will contribute to the start-up costs associated with the development of a new STEM Robotics Program for Allendale Public Schools’ 6th grade students. Specific, one-time costs include robot kits, field kits, game fields and Chromebooks.

Teacher Mini Grants: Allendale Christian School

Preschool: $200 for “Learning in the Great Outdoors”
Preschool: $244 for “Light Table”
Preschool: $250 for “Listening Center”
Young Fives: $175 for “Fine Motor Skills”
Young Fives-8th: $250 for “Middle School Exploratory”
Young Fives-8th: $250 for “Middle School Exploratory – Ukulele”
Kindergarten: $250 for “Classroom Library”
K-8th: $250 for “Tennis”
K-8th: $250 for “Math Manipulatives and Consumable Materials”
1st: $180 for “Counting the Counts”
1st: $200 for “Reaching Young Readers”
2nd: $200 for “Classroom Library Space”
2nd: $250 for “Flex Seating”
3rd-4th: $200 for “Classroom Library”
4th: $200 for “Reading A to Z (RAZ Kids)”
5th: $250 for “Narrative Writing”
6th-8th: $243 for “Independent Reading Program”

Grant Deadline: March 27, 2020

Are you part of a nonprofit organization, a unit of government, an educational institution, or a church? Or are you a teacher at a local school? If so, you or your organization might be eligible to apply for a Community Foundation grant or teacher mini-grant.

Please send grant inquiries to Holly Cole, Vice President of Grants & Program, at hcole@ghacf.org or call 842-6378 if you have any questions.

Ray & Alma Statema Park Stewardship Fund

The Ray & Alma Statema Park Stewardship Fund was created to recognize Ray and his wife Alma for their legacy of environmental leadership and the countless students they’ve inspired to serve their community.

This organizational fund will help schools pay for bussing costs and other expenses so students can participate in service-based workdays in Ottawa County Parks. Service-based workdays instill a stewardship ethic in future generations while enhancing the natural features within the park system.

Grants from this fund will also help pay for tools, equipment, and materials related to outreach and education for the work days.
To our generous supporters

Thank you to everyone who gave, shared, and supported our 20th anniversary campaign. From sending in twenty-dollar bills, to buying pizza from Mancino’s last spring, you’ve shown us that you not only care for this community, you want us to continue our mission to forever care for this place we call home.

To see the rest of our Give $20 for 20 photos and watch our Thank You video, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/AllendaleCommunityFoundation.

Board Holiday Gathering

In December, the boards of the Coopersville Area, Allendale, and Grand Haven Area Community Foundations gathered at the Spring Lake Country Club for a social hour. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all the good work we do for our communities!

left: Gwen VanTimmeren talking to students from the Grand Haven Area and Coopersville Area Community Foundations’ youth advisory committees. right: Judy and Ben Meyer.
Why I Give: Richard Ponshair

Richard Ponshair started the Allendale Life Long Learners Fund so senior citizens in the community could receive benefits even though there is no community building. The group meets monthly at the township office to socialize and learn interesting topics. Richard’s parents never had any outlets like this and he wanted to be able to give this to the upcoming generations.

This fund leaves a lasting legacy for Richard to positively impact the under-recognized senior citizens of Allendale, while allowing others to donate to and receive tax write-offs while giving back to their local community.

“I wanted seniors to receive benefits in the community even though there isn’t a building.”

– Richard Ponshair