Chairperson’s Letter

Dear Friends,

As 2020 presents its challenges, our community continues to rally. The Coopersville Area Community Foundation is grateful to be a part of the incredible response. This newsletter reflects the scholarships and grants totaling $46,280 awarded locally through the foundation in the past few months alone. We celebrate and thank every individual, family, group, and organization who took part in making such an incredible impact.

If you are looking for ways to help, please consider making a gift to the Community Action Fund as it addresses the areas of greatest need in the community. Giving to existing funds supporting specific needs across our community also are welcomed. If you would like to explore creating a fund specific to your interest or passion, we’re here to support you. Every gift helps the foundation respond in good times, difficult times, and everything in between. Every gift matters.

On behalf of the foundation and board, thank you for your commitment to this community. We are here for good, for ever, for Coopersville.

Sincerely,

Kelley Monterusso
Chair, Coopersville Area Community Foundation Advisory Board

Grants Awarded from the Board & CAYAC

This past spring, our CACF Board and CAYAC awarded $18,085 to support the Coopersville community, including a grant to the Coopersville Area District Library for their 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. “This initiative is aimed at preschool-age children and their families to increase the time that caregivers spend reading to little ones,” said Lavonne Marshall, Director of the Coopersville Area District Library. “The grant money will be used to purchase materials that will allow the library to distribute totes designed to get kids registered and reading, as well as on-line access to the program.

Reading together is the single most important activity families can do to support literacy and education with their kids.”

Additional grants awarded:
- Coopersville Area District Library – $1,000 to live-stream educational programming.
- Coopersville Cares – $1,785 to fund three Feeding America Food Truck Visits.
- City of Coopersville, Recreation Department – $2,000 to purchase lacrosse equipment and help create youth lacrosse programming.
**Foundation Awards Scholarships to 32 Area Students**

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our Foundation Scholarships, with awards totaling $28,245. Thank you to the donors who have established funds that support the educational dreams of our local students. If you would like to start a scholarship fund, please call Kari Fuller at 616-842-6378. Visit our website for more information on each scholarship and their heartfelt stories.

**Chris Bradley Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Kaylor Siebelink, Drew Sikkema, Samuel Wurm, Sara Zomberg

**Coopersville Endowed Scholarship Fund:** Haley Buhland, Christopher Creswick, Nolan Datema, Peyton Doezema, Bailey Gilbert, Justin Heft, Josh Klein, Emma LeMieux, Shelby Pulte, Audrey Schoenborn, Ellen Smoes, Sydney Twietmeyer

**Daryn Renee Worpel Scholarship:** Makenzie Abbas, Jamie Maurer, Lydia Slocum

**David and Mary Jo Busman Family Scholarship Fund:** Katelynn Fritz

**David A. Reeves Scholarship Fund:** Owen Syrek

**Staci Cheadle Memorial Scholarship:** Sophia Umlor

**Del Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Nicholas Karns, Natalie Kline, Michaela Mooney, Kelsie Wezeman

**Jack and Libby Bush Scholarship Fund:** Megan Draper

**Nelson Family Scholarship Fund:** Kobe Russo

**Ronald C. Bush Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Kaila Polak

**S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Christina Chandler, Delaney Huizen, Emma Sietsema

This year’s celebration of Coopersville’s top high school seniors looked a little different. Instead of our annual dinner honoring the students and their selected educator who most impacted their school experience, we recognized each student in the Coopersville Observer, with a downtown banner, and on our Facebook page. Thank you to Ed and Nancy Hannenburg for your continued support of this program.

**Excellence in Education – Congratulations to the Top 10% of the Class of 2020!**

Makenzie S. Abbas  
Educator: Lyn Decarlo

Sophia E. Baker  
Educator: Jim Nicolas

Megan R. Draper  
Educator: Katelyn Ysquierdo

Gavin C. Engweiler  
Educator: Jean Arteaga

Bailey J. Gilbert  
Educator: William Breen

Haven G. Kamps  
Educator: Mary Lamson-Burke

Nicholas S. Karns  
Educator: Marty Alexander

Natalie M. Kline  
Educator: Lisa Borst

Kaylor E. Siebelink  
Educator: Jim Nicolas

Emma R. Sietsema  
Educator: Kelly Balkema

Drew M. Sikkema  
Educator: Mike Fritz

Ellen M. Smoes  
Educator: Don Patten
The grants committee had a careful discussion regarding the current COVID-19 crisis and its impact on our community and our partner organizations. All grant applications were evaluated and the committee was purposeful in granting to organizations assisting the community’s COVID-19 needs, as well as to organizations who were preparing to open once the emergency was over. We are pleased our nonprofit partners will be able to move forward with their goals.

A Note About Our Grants

Are you part of a nonprofit organization, a unit of government, an educational institution, or a church? If so, your organization might be eligible to apply for a Community Foundation grant.

Our next grant deadline is: September 25, 2020.

Please send grant inquiries to Kari Fuller at kfuller@coopersville-cf.org or call 616-842-6378 x107 if you have any questions.

Welcome New Advisors

The Community Foundation is able to grow because of the dedicated leadership of many community citizens. We are pleased to welcome Matt Hehl and Kathlene Sheridan to our Advisory Board.

Matt has served on the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, West Michigan Agricultural Education Center, Ottawa County Planning Commission, Chairman of the Ottawa Conservation District, and the Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board. He says, “The foundation is helping our community, and I am proud to be part of it.”

Kathlene Sheridan, of Conklin, is an attorney and co-founder of Sheridan Law PLC. Kathlene and her family are grateful for the churches, parks, library, and other offerings of the Coopersville community. She looks forward to further serving the community through the Coopersville Area Community Foundation.

Farewell, Jeff and Jose

Thank you to Jeff Johnson and Jose C. Gomez, both of whom completed two terms on the board this past spring. We will miss their dedication to the Coopersville community and wish them the best in their retirements.
Since we were founded in 1993, our mission has been to make Coopersville a better place to live and work by improving and enhancing the quality of life for all its citizens. COVID-19 has reinforced that ideal, and we’re proud to have helped area nonprofits during this time of increased need.

Our parent organization, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, was part of a community coalition that raised and granted more than $900K through 110 grants to nonprofits within Ottawa County. Those grants focused on food, housing & shelter, health & mental health, vulnerable populations, and immigrant & migrant communities.

Now they’ve established the Community Relief & Recovery Fund to respond to the current and long-term impact that COVID-19 will have on individuals, families, and nonprofit partners within Northern Ottawa County.

- The fund is non-endowed to ensure resources will be used to respond to the evolving crisis and long-term plans for recovery.
- Areas of focus will include safe housing, accessible nutrition, physical and mental health, education, arts and culture, frontline fatigue, and vulnerable communities such as seniors and children.
- Grants will be awarded to support core operations in an effort to allow organizations to continue caring for Northern Ottawa County communities.

If you’re able, please give at ghacf.org/donate

**Why We Give: Coopersville Area Community Foundation**

“We’re grateful to everyone who’s given, and now we’re asking the entire community to help.”

— Kari Fuller, Director of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation