Thank you to those who have chosen the community foundation as a way to enhance the community for future generations through a planned gift. Leaving a gift to the community foundation allows individuals to support the causes that they are most passionate about—forever.

Our annual Legacy Society Event is when we traditionally remember and honor the legacies who were realized since the last time we gathered. For the second year in a row, we cancelled our annual event due to COVID-19, and we are dedicating the following space to memorialize and show our deep appreciation to the following legacies who have been realized this past year.

Mary Kay Alguire
Mary Kay led a life of kindness, humility, and service toward her family and community. She treated everyone she met with respect, creating a positive presence both during her career as an educator as well as by volunteering throughout the community. She instilled an ethos of kindness and inclusion within her children and grandchildren and always sought to see the best in others.

Her dedication to her community, her church, and her family is reflected in her giving spirit and commitment to the betterment of the Grand Haven area.

Janet R. Briegel
Janet Briegel committed herself to our community and its future, our children. Born and raised in Grand Haven, her love of the community showed in the hours she dedicated to local organizations, activities and volunteer work. From creating music, to educating at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Janet shared her passions and knowledge with everyone.

Janet’s long career as an educator at Ferry Elementary School impacted countless lives, and her support will continue to benefit area youth forever, through both her scholarship fund, which assists students pursuing careers in education, and her designated fund, which supports Ferry Elementary students.

Legacies recognized from August 2020-September 2021
Richard C. Briegel

Dick devoted his time and energy to serving the community through his works and charitable spirit. He served on the foundation’s Board of Trustees from 1995-2001, helping guide us in our support of Northwest Ottawa County. Beyond this, he consistently and steadfastly impacted our community through his volunteering of time and energy in various leadership positions.

As donors and fund holders, Dick and his wife, Patricia, generously supported local education, religious, and health and human service-related organizations.

Mary R. Creason

Mary lived a life full of adventure and opportunity—ideas she strove to share with everyone she could. Mary loved to fly, a passion that led her to support countless youths in pursuing aviation. She had a variety of roles as an educator and advisor for aeronautics, generating a lot of local support for aviation through her work at the Grand Haven Memorial Airport.

The creation of the Michigan Aviation Education Foundation was one way Mary, and her fellow pilots, could forever impact the lives of aviation students through scholarships. The Grand Haven Memorial Airport Greatest Needs Fund was also established in memory of Mary to support the ongoing general operations of the Grand Haven Memorial Airport. Her love for life, for aviation, and for our community created an aura of adventure and aspirations for the future among all who met her.

Gretchen Garrison

Gretchen was dedicated to her family and her community. She was known to be generous and kind, with many friends whom she enjoyed spending time with.

Her dedication to her family and friends also extended to her support of her community. Her legacy is reflected in the establishment of the Dr. Edgar and Gretchen Garrison Family Fund, which will help support the greatest needs of the Grand Haven area. By supporting the greatest needs of the community, Gretchen can show her continuing love for her family and friends.

Nancy Moss

Nancy lived a life full of adventure and passion—something she instilled in others through her long career in education. She supported the educational successes and futures of students through a variety of programs, from scholarships to creativity studies to mission trips.

Nancy’s involvement in the community was widespread. She spent her time volunteering and enjoying the beauty of the outdoors, especially through traveling. She utilized her many talents to not only live an extraordinary life, but also to encourage the success of our future through our students and educational system. Nancy’s commitment to our community continues through her legacy and dedication to the musical education for children with special needs.
Pearl E. Patterson

Pearl committed herself to our community in a myriad of ways. She cared for the community through her church’s activities, as well as through the Red Cross. Her attention to the health of our community extended into the natural world, through Pearl’s great love and concern for nature and animals. Her dedication as a Scout leader for both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts allowed her to guide many youth. Pearl will forever support the students of our community through her scholarship fund, allowing them to pursue their dreams and find a fulfilling future.

Mary A. Teitsma

Mary was an active community member whose kindness is reflected in her love of the Tri-Cities. As one of the first members of 100 Women Who Care, Mary supported numerous programs and projects that promoted the betterment of our community. She and her husband, James, also saw that the continued success and future of our community rests on the foundations laid today. Through this, they created a named greatest needs fund at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation in order to support the needs of Northwest Ottawa County, forever.

John P. VanEenenaam

John led a life of continual education and generosity. He lived a life in service to the community, promoting the success of students and future lawyers through his mentoring and support. His various leadership positions showed the depth of his care for our community. He also brought joy into West Michigan through the West Michigan Banjo Club. His spirit and dedication to this community reflected the idea that all acts done in service of others help to build a brighter future for everyone.

Frederic P. vandenBerg

Rick lived a life of humble service, quiet leadership, and grace. His work for the community reflected his deep love for West Michigan. As long-time generous donors to the foundation, he and his wife, Donna, believed in the need to preserve the icons of our community. When Rick’s sister passed away, he and Donna established the Mary “Meime” vandenBerg Fund in her memory, which will support the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy and the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes in perpetuity.
The following people have committed to leaving a gift to the foundation after they pass. If you would like more information about joining the Legacy Society, please contact Chris Riker.

- Tom Alguire
- Donald & Cindy Anderson
- Len & Wanda Anderson
- David Baas
- Paula B. Baas
- William & Mary Baker
- Steven & Kathryn Bandstra
- Sue Barrett
- Charlie & Mary Jo Bassett
- Charles (Chad) Bassett II
- Paul Bedient
- William & Carolyn Benes
- Carroll & Dottie Bennink
- Patrick S. Berg
- Jeff & Tammy Beswick
- Susan & Mark Blauvelt
- William & Katherine Blessing
- Mary Jane Boettcher
- Norm & Carolyn Boeve
- T. Arnold & Lynne Boezaart
- Calvin & Evelyn Bosman
- Barbara Boyer
- Tom Braciak
- Patricia K. Briel
- Budd & Melinda Brink
- James & Jane T. Brown
- Fred Bruhn
- John & Claire Bryson
- Cheri & Ron Bultje
- Kevin Carbury & Carol Alexander
- Nancy Carlyle
- Cyndi Casemier
- Stacey Cassis & Arianna Morales
- Joe & Cheryl Clark
- Margaret Coffey
- John Cook & Jane E. Leonard
- Harold "Pete" & Cindy Crane
- Kennard & Wendy Creason
- Thomas & Michelle Creswell
- Scott Curtis
- David & Carol DeBlaeby
- Terry & Sandi DeGroot
- Daniel & Brenda DeVeau
- Barbara DeWitt
- Ralph DeYoung
- Virginia Dornbos-Rolstone
- James A. & Dulce Doss
- Megan & Jamie Doss
- Joyce Draft
- Dennis & Barbara Dryer
- Dwight & Gloria Durkee
- Myrna Duthler
- Jim & Marla Dykstra
- Nancy Dzierzawski
- David & Mary Eagain
- Martha Erickson
- Jon & Glenda Eshleman
- Steve & Mary Jane Evink
- Wallace & Jane Ewing
- Patricia Fisher
- John & Kathryn Fortino
- Patrick & Robin Fraker
- Barbara Fugazzotto
- Edward "Tony" Gage
- Rob & Jill Garrison
- Tom Gifford
- Edward & Laura Grafton
- Randy & Nancy Grevel
- Edward & Nancy Hanenburg
- Janet A. Harestad
- Steve & Tami Harvey
- Shirley Hipwell
- Andy & Alice Hoban
- Bud & Charyn Hoffman
- Stephen & Joy Hohmeyer
- Judith W. Hooeyenga
- Jim & Deb Hovinga
- Paul & Diana Hugo
- Sherry Jackoboise
- Tom & Barb Jackoboise
- Mary Jacobson
- Nelson & Lana Jacobson
- Nancy Jacobson Bueche
- Bari S. Johnson
- Holly & Erick Johnson
- Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson
- Roger & Susan Jonas
- Jeff & Kellie Jullie
- Aurther & Janice Keating
- James & Mary Keating
- Katherine L. Keck
- J. Gregg & Mary Kbeeldt
- Jack & Joanne Kelley
- Sanford "Mark" & Kristine Kelley
- Barbara Kelso
- Phil & Jane King
- Thomas & Kimberly Kitchen
- Dave & Sandy Klaassen
- Kurt & Jennifer Klaassen
- Mark A. & Elizabeth Kleist
- Raymond & Betsy Komray
- Scott & Madonna Kramer
- Ben Lahey
- Keith & Bernice Lamkin
- Tom & Jackie Laughlin
- Philip M. & Betty J. Leech
- James & Nancy MacLachlan
- Angelo & Laura Marasco
- Nina McKeough-Reed
- Larry & Anne McLaughlin
- Damen & Kim McLaughlin
- Douglas McNeil
- Sandra & Frank Mercurio
- Muriel Mersereau
- Robert J. & Donnell S. Mersereau
- Jean Fisher Mesler
- Nancy E. Middlebrook
- Dr. James Moore & Patricia Eddington
- Phyllis A. & Darell L. Moreland
- Steven & Sandra Moreland
- Evelyn Morford
- Donald Moss
- Peter & Sheila Murdoch
- Nancy & Charles Nagtzaam
- John & Kathryn Nash
- Raymond F. & Barbara J. Nelson
- Matthew M. & Kathryn E. (Jerovek) Olds
- Greg Oleszczuk & Jeanine Taghon-Oleszczuk
- James & Ruthann Oltlhoff
- Roy & Joyce Overway
- Jill & Tim Parker
- Dan & Eileen Paul
- Elizabeth Peal
- Thomas C. Pegg
- Anita Pellegrin
- Matthew & Joyce Pellegrin
- Marsha Peterson
- John Planteroth
- Larry Poel
- Craig & Coreen Porter
- Edward & Barbara Post
- Shirley A. & Ted A. Poulton
- Joseph & Nancy Prinzi
- Bill & Aileen Redeker
- Field Reichardt
- Rosanne M. Reiss
- Gerald Retzlaff
- Nancy Rhem
- M. Gary & Pennie Robertson
- Lloyd Rotz
- Sylvia & Ron Ruscott
- Robert & Bobbi Jones Sabine
- Dan & Carol Scanlan
- James Schmidt & Karen West
- Richard & Carol Scholler
- David & Jinny Schultz
- David & Sharon Seaver
- Kenneth & Sandra Sharkey
- William & Susan Shattuck
- John & Patricia Shears
- Budge & Marilyn Sherwood
- Gary & Karen Sherwood
- Karen Shields
- Dorothy Sikkema
- Gerald & Linda Slagel
- Robert E. & Janice D. Sluka
- Gary & Jorri Smith
- Julie Smyth
- Linda S. Shores & R. Michael Snodgrass
- Rick & Mary Ann Snyder
- Larry & Stephanie Staub
- Tyler M. Stafford
- James J. & Sheila G. Steffel
- Peter & Carolyn Sturrus
- Kent & Bonnie Suchecki
- Ruth Suchecki
- Dennis & Carol Swartout
- Dan & Ann Tabor
- Philip & Mary Kay Taylor
- James Teitsma
- Ken and Mary Terpstra
- Guy & Alisha Terrill
- Peter & Judy Theune
- Janet Tomhave
- Joseph & Carol Urdiril
- Edith VanBurgal
- Donna vandenBerg
- John Vander Kooi
- Marianne VanEenenaam
- Dale & Susan VanZantwick
- Elinore "Norma" Verplank
- L. J. "Midge" Verplank
- Tony & Monica Verplank
- Ken & Sherri Vis
- Margot L. Van Dis & Jeffrey R. Miller
- Robert & Deborah Wagenmaker
- David & Patricia Walborn
- Ruth Wallinga
- Walt & Daphne Weber
- Amy L. West
- Andrew Wheeler
- Curtis & Terri Whiting
- David & Mary Whiting
- Annette Whitney
- Nancy & Warren Wildeman
- Leslie Wills
- Paul Withun
- David & Karen Young
- Rosemary A. Zink
- Michael & Sasha Zolik
- Douglas & Janice Zuidema
- Marian Zupin