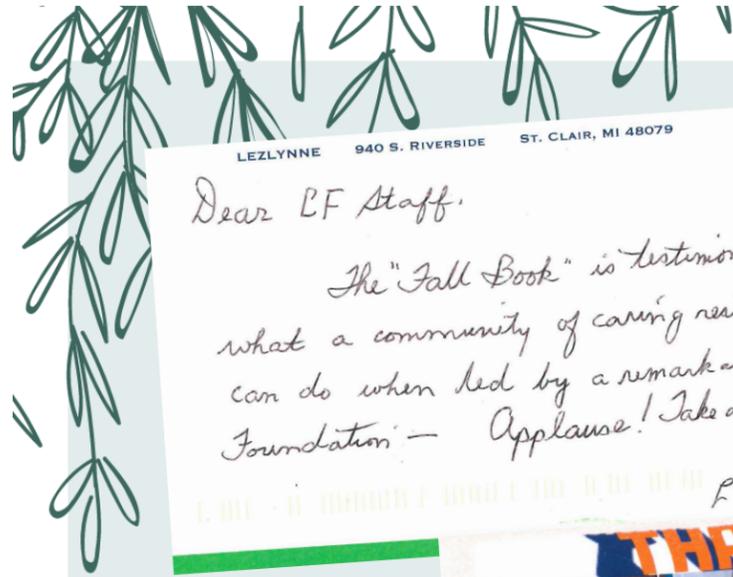




**Winter 2022
Look Back**
*Community Foundation of
St. Clair County*
Brag Book



In Thanks



LEZLYNNE 940 S. RIVERSIDE ST. CLAIR, MI 48079

Dear CF Staff,

The "Fall Book" is testimony what a community of caring residents can do when led by a remarkable Foundation - Applause! Take a bow!

R.



Thank you for being so generous to Yale school clubs!
Mentor Tara Forstner

We are so excited to have your support!

Thank you for being part of our team and our family. Your support is our future and is greatly appreciated!

Blond Madyki
Spencer
Michelle
Matthew G
Riley & Tracy
Reyes Lopez
Marc Thompson

THANK YOU

Dear Community Foundation Members,

Thank you so much for your very generous contributions to the Julie's Kids program at Yale High School. Your funding, as well as the amazing new freezer have been used to help make a tremendous impact for our families. Thank you again for choosing Julie's Kids. We are so very thankful.

Sincerely, *Yale Public Schools Counseling Dept.*

Randy & Staff

A huge thank you for the delicious basket of chocolates & goodies. It was very thoughtful.

Wishing you all a happy & healthy New Year.

The staff at
McBride-Wanley & Co.

Thank you for your support of our program. I know our students will greatly benefit from the experiences this grant affords. We are looking forward to sharing the results with you!

Thanks
Courtney Warden
Victoria Hussey

Dear Randy,

Thank you so much for the support the Maiers Family Fund has shown to Budget Builders. We could not do what we do without the generous help of people like you. Thank you!

Merry Christmas,
The Budget Builder Staff

Thanks

for your support

Kindness is more than
the nice things you do.
It's who you are,
through and through.

So sorry for the tardiness
of this card. My daughter
was in ICU & I've been
at the hospital with her in bed.
Please know we are so
grateful for your donation. We
will be using it towards
blessing homeless families,
senior citizens and our
children & youth ministers.
Thanks again for your
generosity.
Pastor
Spitta

Community Foundation
of St Clair County
Thanks so much
for your thoughtfulness...
thanks for being you.
Pastor Spitta Hazel
New Life North Church

In a year filled with uncertainty,
we pause during this Christmas season
to say THANK YOU for your generous financial support
and believing in our purpose, mission, and vision.
WE ARE VERY THANKFUL!!
May this holiday season find you and yours
healthy, happy, and filled with peace and joy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, from The Athletic Factory



www.theathleticfactory.org
1517 10th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060
810-300-9053

Dear Audrey,
Thank you for providing Port
Huron High School with a substantial
grant to support our College Advisor,
Brandon Wardlow. Our students
depend on him to guide them
through the college application process
and open their eyes to new experiences.
We are grateful for your support!
Sincerely,
Tina Hill

GO BIG REDS



Jadyn Verthor
Wilton Allen
Hannah Lucas
Anna Graziadei
Rory Francis
AEDAN BEICHER
Asham Henry
Rori Gardner
James Brocken
Jacob Rhude
Haylee Kruse

Port Huron Northern High School Bands
1799 Krafft Road, Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 984-2671

PO Box 596036
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059-6036
(810) 689-4251

phbands.org phnbb.com

Malenaie James
Eli Schroll
Christina Vogt
Logan
Josh Green
Evan Gilbert
Jack Marenich
Sabrina Shagene
Emily Benedict
Maddi Boyles
Alexis Stevens
Avery Walsh
Max Hunter
Jack Boyle
Adrianna Jovanovski
Hannah Keys
Emily Stalke
Adam Stramberg
Mason Strubbers
Jaycob
Nico Gai
Gavin Howard
Alison
Nicholas
Madison Sanchez
Dillon Reno
Avery Striver
Jacob Goriot
Adison Cook
Kira Romzek
Blake Shufflin
Kevin Reid
Ethan Wakeham

Community Foundation
Thank you so much for the
kind donation of \$500 to PHW
Band Program. We enjoyed having
the drumline participate your event
Thank Again

THANK YOU

Our Stories

Community Foundation of St. Clair County supports local causes during Thankful Thursdays

First Thumb Coast Kitchen is open

By **EMILY PAULING** | epauling@medianewsgroup.com | The Voice
PUBLISHED: December 2, 2021 at 11:18 a.m. | UPDATED: December 3, 2021 at 9:33 a.m.



The Community Foundation of St. Clair County recently gave away funding to local causes through its Thankful Thursdays program, which took place each Thursday in November leading up to Thanksgiving day.

This year, the foundation had a combination of local families and a group nominate a cause they cared about to be the recipient of the three surprise grants the foundation was giving away.

Community Foundation Vice President Jackie Hanton said that Thankful Thursdays began a few years ago as a “fun way to show thanks to local nonprofits for the work they do.”

“We did this by engaging the public on Facebook to nominate their favorite local organization and help us grant the money,” she said. “It’s not something that we have always done, or will always do, but it has been really fun.”

This year, the foundation moved away from social media nominations and had community members help grant \$1,500 each day. Noel Suarez and his family granted to the Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal church in Port Huron, the group UNLABELd granted to Healing Hearts Home, and the Vinckier family granted to Julie’s Kids in Yale.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Arkansas lures tech workers with free Bitcoin — and a bike



(NewsNation Now) — In a growing trend, cities and even some states are offering incentives to get people to move in.

As an example Tulsa, Oklahoma, officials are offering \$10,000 in an innovative program to bolster the city’s economy.

The Northwest Arkansas Council is investing more than \$1 million to attract top talent to the region through its Life Works Here initiative. In the northwest corner of Arkansas, the initiative is offering \$10,000 to relocate to the region — and that money can come as cash or in the original cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Community Foundation and Michigan Women Forward welcome Maggie Toole

November 8, 2021



Michigan Women Forward (MWF) has hired Maggie Toole as a business development officer who will be responsible for the overall execution of microlending efforts in the Thumb Coast region. This follows the Community Foundation’s recent \$250,000 investment in MWF to be available for local microlending.

“Women entrepreneurs face many barriers including insufficient financial support and gender bias,” said Alexis Dishman, chief lending officer for MWF. “As a representative of our organization, Maggie will engage women in this community to help them get the support and funding they need from our Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative.”

Toole will report directly to Dishman, as well as work in conjunction with the Community Foundation to develop and maintain relationships within the community.

In addition to focused efforts to connect with women entrepreneurs, Toole will also build relationships with local minority-owned businesses to help them have access to financial support needed.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

'The whole rebuild is coming': Riverview Plaza parking lot in St. Clair slated for major upgrade this spring



Jackie Smith
Port Huron Times Herald

Published 2:32 p.m. ET Dec. 30, 2021

[View Comments](#)



An early concept for the reconstruction of the parking lot around Riverview Plaza in St. Clair shows parking areas in yellow. *Courtesy Photo.*

Finding a fix to the ailing parking lot at Riverview Plaza has been on the minds of folks around downtown St. Clair for a long time.

So much so that Pat Coughlin, a co-owner of the mall and member of its board, joked in the last week that he spilled the beans about the news to reconstruct the lot in 2022 on Facebook.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



What's next for the Port Huron region

Reflecting on the MPI giving circle, a celebration of the region's diversity

HAROLD POWELL | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021



Photo: Community Foundation of St. Clair County

Bellies were full, spirits were high, and \$12,000 was awarded to local nonprofits at the first Minority Philanthropy Initiative giving circle event, writes community correspondent Harold Powell.

The Minority Philanthropy Initiative had its inaugural giving circle event on Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron. The MPI was presented by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County as a means of celebrating the region's rich multicultural community and all the while rewarding some of its hard-working nonprofit organizations. Three nonprofit organizations walked away winners, receiving a total of \$12,000 in grants.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Wyatt Walker Friendship Fund Helps Enrich the Lives of Local Youth

December 16, 2021

The Wyatt Walker Friendship Fund is enriching the lives of young people throughout the area. Recent donations to both Port Huron Northern High School and Discovery City at Port Huron Museums' Carnegie Center are continuing the legacy of the late Wyatt Walker.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Connecting donors with causes they care about

🕒 December 28, 2021

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Through the Community Foundation, members of the community can connect with philanthropic causes they're passionate about. The [Challenger Learning Center](#), opening this spring at St. Clair County Community College (SC4), is just one example.



Bonnie Blomquist

Recently, Harlan Blomquist made a heartfelt donation to the Challenger Learning Center using the memorial donations received for his beloved late wife, Bonnie.

Harlan had the opportunity to take a tour of the Challenger Learning Center space and hear the plans for the coming year when it opens to the public. He recommended that the memorial gifts received in Bonnie's memory be used to support the Challenger Learning Center because Bonnie would have loved this opportunity for the community.

"The Community Foundation has been honored to receive hundreds of gifts in memory of someone beloved and special. These gifts help to keep memories alive and give back to our community at the same time," said Community Foundation Vice President, Jackie Hanton.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Community Foundation of St. Clair County awards \$3.88M in grants in 2021

Projects supported include marina, Bridge to Bay Trail



The Community Foundation of St. Clair County awarded more than \$3.88 million in grants to various organizations and causes in 2021. (Courtesy of Community Foundation of St. Clair County/Facebook)

By **MEDIANEWS GROUP** |

January 31, 2022 at 8:49 a.m.

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County awarded more than \$3.88 million in grants to various organizations and causes in 2021.

The foundation's top priority of discretionary dollars was community and economic growth and prosperity, a recent release found on the Community Foundation's website states. Over 40% of grants, or \$1.55 million, went toward projects that will "build a vibrant community for generations to come," such as the marina and Bridge to Bay Trail in Marine City.

"Connected trailways and waterfront utilization have been a priority of ours these past few years," Grants Committee Chairman Judge John Tomlinson said in the release. "Places like Port Huron and St. Clair have already received a bit of investment, so when we had a chance to support Marine City the same way, we jumped on it."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Yale Expositor

DuPont Family Generosity Helps Yale High School Enhance Several Programs

Yale High School (YHS) is reaping the benefits of a donor designated charitable fund thanks to the generosity of Kent DuPont and the Kent George DuPont Family Heritage Fund created in 2020.

“I have sincere gratefulness for everything the DuPont family is doing. The generous annual grants from their charitable fund have allowed us to engage more students in activities that they are interested in while providing them with the skills they need for their future,” said Brad Dykstra, YHS principal.

When planning the charitable fund that would benefit an area where DuPont family ties are deep, no one imagined the impact that it would have within its first year. The Drama Club came back after an 11-year hiatus, 30 students were able to experience Art Prize, and the book club, marching band and robotics team all received support from the Kent George DuPont Family Heritage Fund.

Child Abuse Council gets a new look



“One hundred years from now... it won't matter what kind of car you drove, what kind of house you lived in, how much money you had in the bank, nor the clothes you wore...but, the world might be a little better because you were important in the life of a child.” - Forest Wincraft

Visit us on our new website (designed by JH Strategies) or on Facebook at: [sccstopchildabuse.org](https://www.sccstopchildabuse.org)

Renewed

In the first quarter of 2021, thanks to the James C. Acheson Foundation and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, our building underwent extensive interior renovation providing us with a much needed multi-purpose conference and interview observation room, a new larger victim/family waiting room, the addition of a second waiting room for therapy families, a teen/adult therapy room, a child's play therapy room, and numerous technology improvements all designed to help the organization and our

During FY20-21, we worked to create an updated brand voice and identity for our nearly 40-year-old agency. The result is a rejuvenated look, brand identity, and inspiring images that truly tell the story of how the work we do leads to renewed hope and healing for children and their families. As part of this update, our new website, featuring more visuals, easy-to-navigate organization, and new and updated resources, launched in fall 2020. FY20-21 also saw the launching of a county wide digital and static billboard campaign to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. Below is a rendering of one of several of the billboards you will see throughout this report.



Former Sheriff Tim Donnellon launches a new law enforcement fund

🕒 December 10, 2021

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of a new endowment fund by former Sheriff Tim Donnellon that will assist the local law enforcement community both now and in the future.

“The people that supported me throughout my career, I want them to be able to be satisfied when they see this fund and know that excess funds from that campaign check they wrote years ago is going to a great cause,” Donnellon said. “The fund will help lower the financial burden of the police academy and could support special programs for the current and future law enforcement community. I couldn't be more excited to see folks take advantage of this funding in the future,” Donnellon said.

For nearly 33 years, former St. Clair County Sheriff Tim Donnellon worked in various law enforcement roles across the county. He served as Sheriff for 12 years before retiring in 2020 and contributed the remainder of the funds in his re-election account to establish the [Sheriff Donnellon Law Enforcement Fund](#) earlier this year.

The law enforcement fund will support individuals attending the police academy or college students with a criminal justice major who intend to become a law enforcement officer. The fund will also support special programs and projects for current, future or past members of local law enforcement.



Former St. Clair County Sheriff Tim Donnellon

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



What's next for the Port Huron region

The Knowlton Museum expands hours, finds new artifacts to display

MJ GALBRAITH | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

What's happening: The Knowlton Museum, a uniquely St. Clair County experience, has extended its hours of operation. The museum is now open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



What it is: The Knowlton Museum, also known as Knowlton's Ice Museum of North America, claims to have one of the largest — if not the largest — collections of ice-making tools and implements in the country. Their inventory of 19th and early 20th century ice equipment is estimated to number upwards of 10,000 unique items, its original founders traveling the country to bring the artifacts back to the 10,000 sq. ft. museum in Port Huron.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Scholarship recipient Robb Miller, overcoming obstacles and giving back

🕒 January 20, 2022

On Monday, Community Foundation scholarship recipient Robb Miller celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day reading to students at Indian Woods Elementary School and helping to share King's message of hope, persistence and the power of community.

It was a message that hit close to home for the former Big Red, as he knows firsthand the power of a positive attitude and having someone who cares. Miller is currently a freshman at Oakland University, thanks to scholarships from the Community Foundation's [James Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship](#) and Little Brothers, Little Sisters Scholarship Funds, as well as scholarships from Oakland. Scholarships that he said he never would have even considered applying for if it weren't for Port Huron High School [College Adviser Brandon Wardlow](#).

"I would not be where I am now if it weren't for him," Miller said. "I wasn't going to go to college. I figured I'm about to be somebody just stuck in Port Huron for life."

Miller came to Port Huron from Chicago when he was five. It was a move his family made to provide a safer environment for him and his older sister.



Teresa Seely, Robb Miller and Kevin Totty with students at Indian Woods for MLK Day presentation

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Syracuse University emeritus professor endows scholarship at St. Clair County Community College

Community Foundation establishes new blog

By [EMILY PAULING](#) | epauling@medianewsgroup.com | The Voice
January 10, 2022 at 9:14 a.m.

Future St. Clair County Community College students will benefit from a new endowment fund held at the Community Foundation thanks to a gift from Robert G. Sargent, Ph.D., an SC4 alumnus and professor emeritus at Syracuse University, to provide two scholarships each year to students who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering.

"I attended SC4 in 1954 through 56 when it was Port Huron Junior College," Sargent said. "I came from a working-class family and didn't have any money to pursue an education at a university. I had decided to obtain a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering because I enjoyed math and science in high school and had received several awards for my electrical projects in 4-H. Port Huron Junior College provided the opportunity I needed to get an outstanding education for the first two years of pursuing my engineering degree."

Sargent is now known as a world-renowned pioneer and authority in simulation work, receiving many career awards and presenting at lectures in the United States and around the world.



Robert G. Sargent, Ph.D.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Foundation Insights: What is a team?

🕒 December 13, 2021



Randy Maiers,
President & CEO

I've been in the field of philanthropy long enough to have a healthy appreciation for the unexpected, and I try to keep an open mind, but I have to tell you, I never expected or anticipated the day where we would have a "community kitchen manager" or a "director of storytelling" on our team. My how times change, and I couldn't be more excited.

At a recent Community Foundation board meeting during a good round of generative discussion, one of our board members posed this question: "What did we start doing during COVID that we want to keep as we move forward?" First, I love that question because it's truly open-ended and forces our board to continually evaluate and assess what we do and why we do it.

Secondly, it did lead us to think back about the changes and quick reactions we made during the peak of COVID so that we kept moving forward and lived up to the expectations that our community has of us. What our crisis response plan led us to is a broader definition of "our team" or our family here at the Community Foundation. Our team is no longer just full-time paid staff that have old-school titles and responsibilities. Early last year our team makeup changed when we added Kanchan Wankhede and Shannon Schwabe as our small business consultants. And yes, that was a first!



Kanchan Wankhede,



What's next for the Port Huron region

Thumb Coast Kitchens opens to the public: 'An integral part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem'

HAROLD POWELL | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

The Blue Water community recently gained a new resource. Thumb Coast Kitchens, a burgeoning network of commercially-licensed kitchens available to rent by emerging food entrepreneurs, has opened its first location at Grace Episcopal Church in Port Huron.

And with the re-opening of the former Atrium Cafe and Ice Cream Parlor as the Atrium Kitchen coming soon, entrepreneurs and small business owners in the food industry will soon have access to commercial kitchen storage, cooking appliances, and event space right in downtown Port Huron.

Thumb Coast Kitchens is a new initiative put together by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and the James C. Acheson Foundation. The first of its kind in St. Clair County, Thumb Coast Kitchens provides qualified business owners with access to commercial-grade kitchen facilities to launch and grow their food-based business.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



In Memoriam



Lynne Secory

The Community Foundation joins our community in mourning the loss of a wonderful local leader, Lynne Secory.

Lynne was a trustee at the Community Foundation from 1999-2008. She was also a generous supporter of the Women's Initiative as an emerald circle member and actively involved in helping shape the new priority area of the group back in 2015.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

**We thank our donors,
friends, partners and
grantees for helping us make
bold investments in people
and place. Together we're
building a vibrant and
prosperous community.**