



**Summer 2022
Look Back**

*Community Foundation of
St. Clair County*

Brag Book



PORT HURON MUSEUMS
115 6th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060
www.phmuseum.org

DTE Foundation
Jennifer Lawson & Stephanie Beres
c/o Jackie Hanton
St. Clair County Community Foundation
100 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI 48060



Board:
Trina Avedisian, President
Dawn Cooper, Vice President
Andy Bakko, Treasurer
Hope Doerzbacher, Secretary
Beth Dione, Board Member
Jennifer Linder, Board Member
Jim Sommerville, Board Member

Dear Mr. Kramer,

Citizens for a Vibrant Community would like to thank you for your Grant for Art on the River 2022 through your Spartan Fund. We are working hard on the planning now and it's looking like it's going to be awesome! We appreciate your support and you have no idea how much this means to the entire committee.

It is because of those that believe and care about our community like you do, that we are able to do projects to help the community AND keep Art on the River alive and well for the Blue Water Area. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Make sure you come to the event on June 10th, 11th and 12th and enjoy the art and music and a few other surprises!

Have a great day!
Trina Avedisian
Art on the River Chairwoman

Andy Bakko
Vice Chair

Hi Gerry. Thank you for all you do in this County. and support of The Art Community

[Signature] see you soon
Andy B.

Dear Jennifer and Stephanie,
I wanted to send a sincere Thank You for DTE Foundation's donation to the Port Huron Museum for our efforts in making 3 of our sites free during the 2022 year. This effort to reach more people, make our sites more accessible, and really focus on what we can offer to our community is a museum's dream - so thank you for your contribution to making that happen!

With your contribution, we were able to expand our marketing, not only to more focused media within St. Clair County, but also outside of the County, and into Macomb, Oakland, and more.

The visitor numbers have already been outstanding. In the first two months, we saw over 4,500 people - nearly what we see in one season alone! These numbers have been amazing, and I, the staff, and the Board of Trustees are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a community hub of education and history for our visitors.

Another area of growth that I have expanded is our program offerings. These educational programs range from children-aged activities to adult lectures, events, and programs. The Museum's goal is to educate and celebrate our local communities and the cultures, history, and stories of our area and people. We look forward to growing our programs and becoming that community and cultural center for our area. I look forward to working with you in the future to support the continued growth of the Museum to reach this goal!

Again, thank you for your generous support in our 2022 Free Admission Initiative.

Kind regards,

[Signature]



June 30, 2022

Mr. Randy Maers
Community Foundation of St. Clair County
500 Water Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Randy:

You represent the Power of Us!
Thank you for your generous donation to the YMCA of the Blue Water Area. The following grant has been received by our office:

- \$300.00 written on check number 0000170 through the Community Foundation designated Safety Around Water from the Babin Blue Water Charitable Fund.

Your commitment to the Y has a direct and positive impact on our friends and neighbors because of your support we are able to help build people. How do you build a person?

- By helping a child overcome a fear of water and learning the life-saving skill of swimming
- By helping a woman with cancer rebuild the strength to lift her granddaughter
- By providing a shy kid the opportunity to have a safe place afterschool, to grow, and become a confident young person

100% of your gift helps us build people right here in our community.

Sincerely,
[Signature]
Joshua Chapman
President/CEO

YMCA of the Blue Water Area: EIN 38-1358417

PRESIDENT/CEO
Joshua Chapman

YMCA OF THE BLUE WATER AREA
1525 3rd Street, Port Huron MI 48060
(810) 987-6400 Fax: (810) 987-7251
www.bluewaterymca.com

thank you



Dear Rudy & Bev,
Your presence, your kindness, and your gift in memory of my mother is something that will I will always hold in my heart.
Finally
Ernest

Dear Heather (and our friends at the Community Foundation),
Thank you so much for donating the large cooler from the Atrium to our organization! It will DEFINITELY go to good use, and we appreciate you thinking of us!
We are so blessed to have your support in our community.
With gratitude,
Your friends at 2Gen!



Dear Grants Committee -
We are extremely grateful for the generous gift to support our New Empowerment & Training Suite! Half of the technology has been installed & we were able to use it at our Ribbon Cutting!
Our emerge360 business program is growing & we are beginning to have outcomes that will prove the need of this program! We invite you to schedule a behind the scenes tour at your convenience.
On behalf of all the girls we serve, THANK YOU for awarding this generous grant!
-Karen Palka & the SEME team

Dear Community Foundation,
Thank you for supporting our recovery center renovation. Your heartfelt contributions to us and our community are noticed & very much appreciated.
- Patrick Patterson - BWROC

Thank you for your generous donation to our Destination Imagination team, The Thomas Edison Tacos. Your support helped us travel all the way to Kansas City to compete in the 2022 Global Finals. We competed against teams from around the globe and are pleased to announce that we came in 10th place overall in our age bracket. We had a wonderful time while we were there and appreciate your donation and support so much!

Emma Rasado
Olivia Costanzo
Taylor Wallace

Exhan Arnold
Daxton P. Meadows
Aiden Carrier



Thank you
so much
Haley

Jeremiah
Lockett
Thank
you!

THANK
VERY
MUCH
MICK
CHURCH

Cayden: Thank you
Kevin Stewart

And grateful
are the receivers.

Thank you
so much!



To the College Access Committee, the
Grants Committee and the YAC, we
are beyond grateful for your kind
generosity and encouraging support!

From the Staff and Family of SONS
Outreach, Thank you for investing in us...
Miguel Davis, Synone C. Barrell, Exec. Dir
WEST.M xx SONS Admin, Laura Barrell



THE
ATHLETIC
Factory



YAC,

Thank you for granting us
the funds to provide SAT/ACT
Prep. We are excited to be able
to continue offering our prep
course. Best Regards, Cliff



July 7, 2022

Community Foundation of St. Clair County
Attn: Dan Lockwood
500 Water Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Hi Dan:

On behalf of the City of St. Clair and the July 4th Fireworks Committee, I want to
thank you for your generous contribution to this year's fireworks display in downtown
St. Clair. We enjoyed seeing families and friends, estimated over 10,000 people, joining
us in celebrating this great tradition. The St. Clair fireworks continue to bring an exciting
and memorable event for our community and neighboring communities.

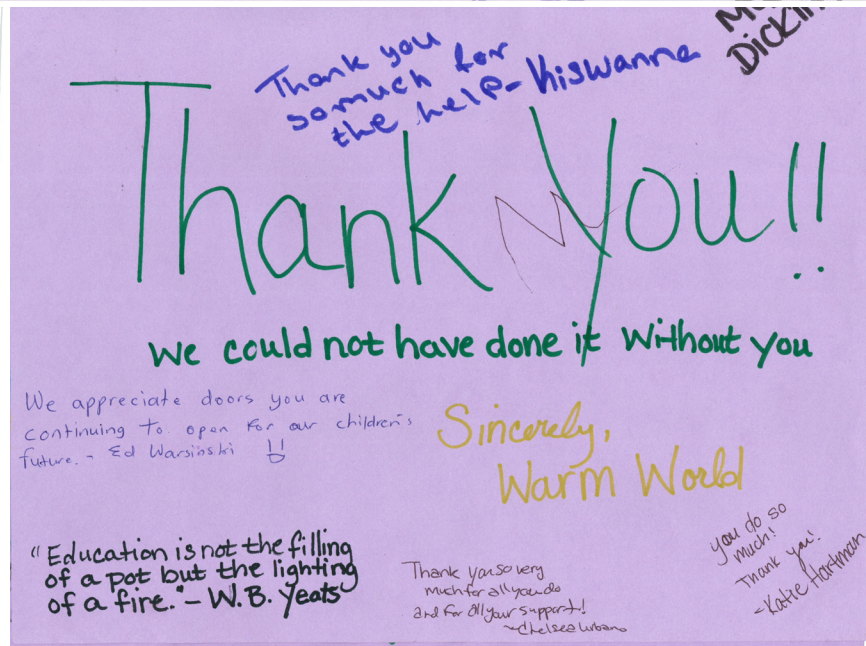
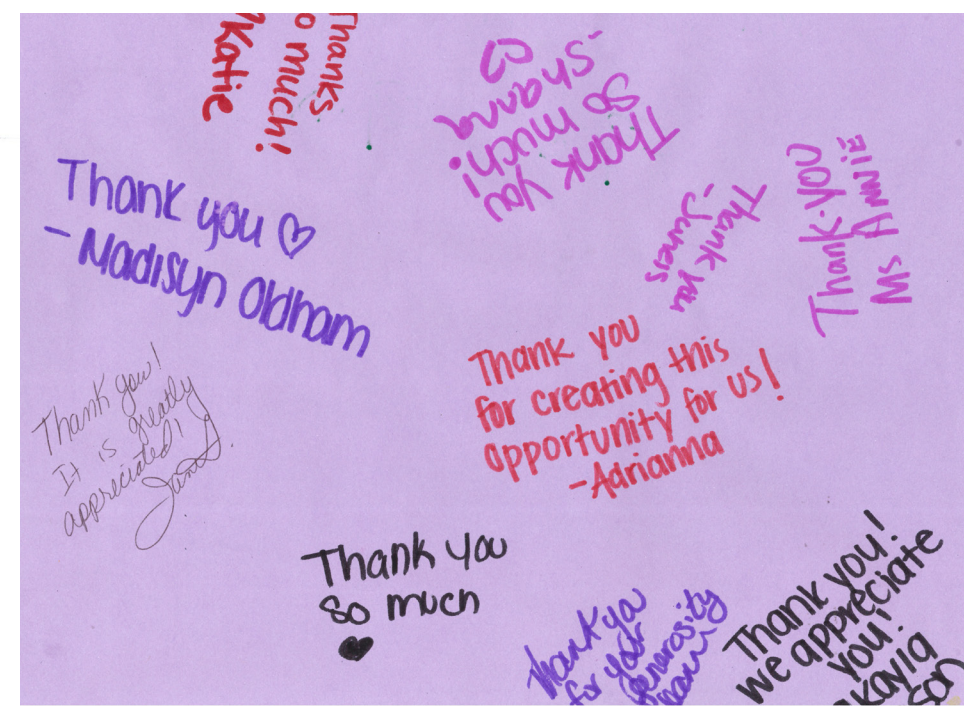
The St. Clair Community Foundation is a key sponsor in supporting and helping us
raise the funds to provide this special event each year. Next year promises to be even
better, as we are already working on the best fireworks display for 2023.

Thank you for your continued community support.

Best Regards,

Dave E Liniarski

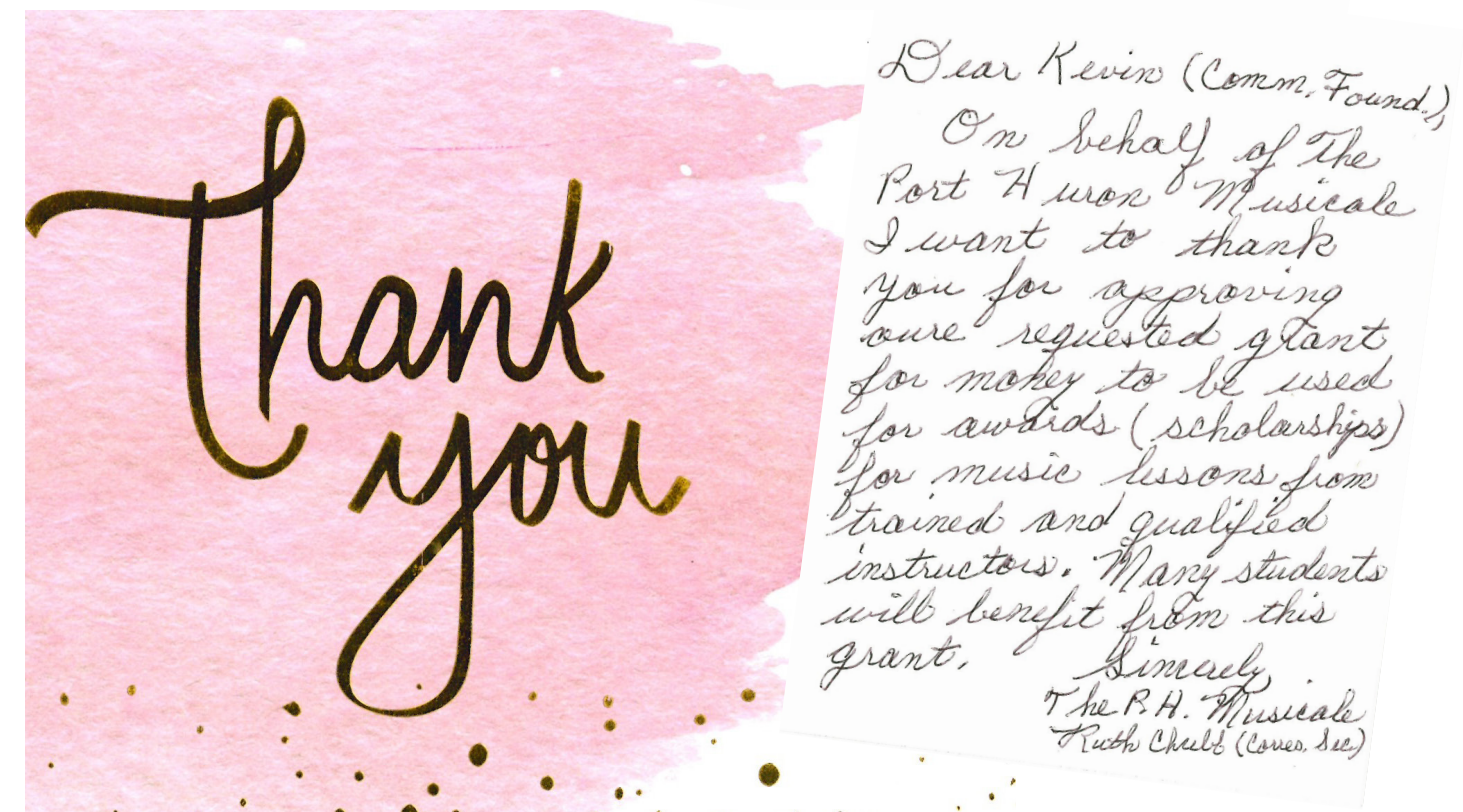
David E Liniarski,
Committee Chairman
St. Clair July 4th 2022 Fireworks



Thank you so very
much for all you do
and for all your support!
-Chelsea Wilson

you do so
much!
Thank you!
-Katie Hutchinson





New fund created through planned giving to benefit those with disabilities

August 16, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Community Foundation is proud to announce the creation of the **Gigi Mericka Abilities Fund**. A thoughtful and intentional last gift left by Gigi through her estate created the fund that will provide help to those with disabilities in the future.

During Gigi's lifetime, she shared she wanted "to help individuals with disabilities live and/or work more independently." She was passionate about helping others and especially those that face physical disabilities that hinder their ability to live independently.



Times Herald

Port Huron's 'once in a lifetime' pathway over Black River Canal is a go, but its cost is twice as high as expected



Jackie Smith

Port Huron Times Herald

Published 8:00 a.m. ET July 3, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The construction of a pedestrian pathway over the Black River Canal in northern Port Huron is still on tap in the coming months, but local leaders said the project is coming with a slight delay and a much more expensive price tag than planned.

As part of the larger Bridge-to-Bay trail effort, the Community Foundation of St. Clair County — in partnership with the city and Port Huron Area Schools — first announced the project more than a year ago. At the time, the nonprofit put the project total at \$650,000.

New generation to benefit from the Leonard Center under the guidance of community leaders like Cliff Thomason

July 25, 2022

For many years the James R. Leonard Community Center served as a valuable community resource and safe haven for youth like Clifford "Cliff" Thomason. A leader in our community today, Cliff is bringing his past experiences with the Leonard Center and his own role models full circle by supporting local youth — the next generation of community leaders.

One of Cliff's earliest role models was his father James "Jim" Thomason Sr. who was also affectionately known as Cowboy due to his love of westerns and predilection as a youth for roleplaying as a cowboy in the children's game Cowboys and Indians. Cowboy was a pastor for over 20 years at Love Outreach Church and had a heart for the community always helping those in need.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



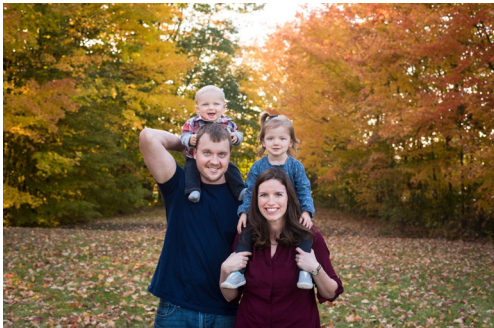
Community Foundation launches new talent attraction initiative

July 26, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Community Foundation launched a new talent attraction initiative to grow the county’s population while also supporting our smaller, local businesses by providing \$5,000 financial incentives to recruit individual employees.

“We’ve all seen the economic impact recruiting new talent to the area can have with programs like the Come Home Award,” said Donna Kuhr, chair of the Foundation’s Talent Attraction Committee. “Now we want to combine our efforts with the existing recruitment networks companies use while also giving their work a boost.”



A Beautiful Me Grows with Help From Community Foundation, James C. Acheson Foundation

May 16, 2022

Port Huron non-profit, *A Beautiful Me*, is expanding their office and training space. After outgrowing their former office space, they have moved to a new space above PH Country Style Marketplace across the street from their retail store, *The Closet by A Beautiful Me*.

The new Empowerment and Training Suite was made possible by donations including a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and a James C. Acheson Foundation gift of \$10,000.

The Community Foundation grant was distributed by the Grants Committee and the Youth Advisory Council. The new space was celebrated with a ribbon cutting in April with over 100 attendees.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



SC4 alumni honor parents, support future generations with scholarships and grants

May 16, 2022

St. Clair County Community College (SC4) alumni Martha Foley and Dan Fredendall recently created the *Therese A. Foley Student Assistance Fund* and the *Eileen M. and Lawrence D. Fredendall Scholarship Fund*—as well as provided grants for the Challenger Learning Center at SC4 and other student support initiatives—to honor the lives and legacies of their parents.

“They were all such strong, selfless and caring role models,” said Martha, who met Dan at SC4 before they both transferred to Michigan State University. “They were committed to advancing the well-being of others within the Blue Water area. These scholarships and grants honor their work and ‘pay-it-forward’ commitment to others.”

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Community Foundation grant supports education and career advancement for youth development professionals

May 31, 2022

The YMCA of the Blue Water Area recently received three grants from the Community Foundation totaling nearly \$4,900 to support its youth development professionals pursuing a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential allowing for higher quality programming and career advancement for childcare staff.

“The Community Foundation has been a key and instrumental partner with the Y for decades,” said Josh Chapman, Community Foundation trustee and president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of the Blue Water Area. “The work that they’re doing with childcare aligns really well with the work that we’re doing here.”



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

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JUN/JUL/AUG 2022

AAALiving
EXPECT SOMETHING MORE

SNACKS GALORE

MI New Favorite Snack Contest
Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

At the inaugural MI New Favorite Snack contest, you won't have to decide between the many scrumptious treats available. At this family-friendly event, you can sample all the foods you like, including snack mixes, snack bars, candy and more.

The event will be held at Vantage Point along the beautiful shores of the St. Clair River in Port Huron, Michigan, and you'll be invited to cast a vote for your favorite snack.

The winning snack manufacturer (or maker) will win a top prize of \$30,000 and a distribution contract with All Star Services, a vending machine and break room supplier. Second and third prizes are \$15,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

The deadline for entries is Aug. 1, 2022, and the cost is \$100 per entry. Snack manufacturers can go to web.bluewaterchamber.com/events/MI-New-Favorite-Snack-Contest-6637/details for contest rules and an application.

AAA.COM/AAALIVING | 17

Summer Solstice marks growth and new beginnings at Blue Water River Walk

HAROLD POWELL | FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022


What's next for the Port Huron region

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



The Blue Water Area has long been home to indigenous people. In fact, the name Michigan comes from the Native American word Michigama, meaning "great or large lake."

Focusing on habitat conservation, environmental education, and recreational access, Friends of the St Clair River seeks to spread this type of awareness through its education and restoration efforts. Recently the nonprofit partnered with members of the region's indigenous community and other local organizations as part of its latest project to create a giitigan, Anishinaabe for garden, at the Blue Water River Walk in Port Huron. Twenty volunteers worked together to plant 800 native plants and restore the shoreline of the St. Clair River.

SONS celebrates 30 years of outreach, recognizes long-standing partnership with Community Foundation

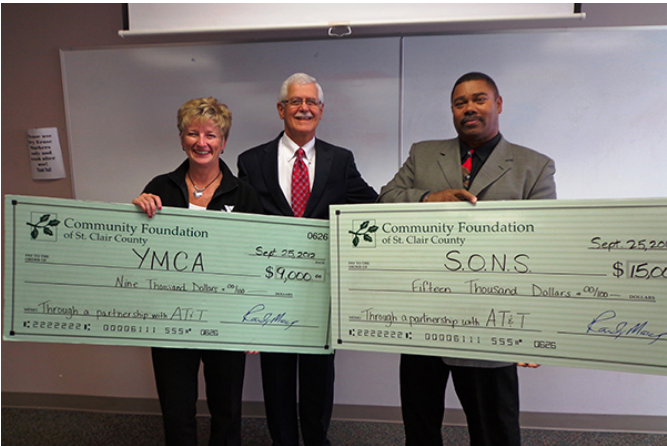
May 19, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

As Saving Our Neighborhoods & Streets (SONS Outreach) celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, it also recognizes a long history of collaboration with Community Foundation.

"We are so happy to be celebrating SONS' 30 years of serving the youth of our community," said SONS board President Jeff Kaczperski. "The impact and longevity of SONS is rare among nonprofits and it's made possible by the support of committed partners like the Community Foundation who have walked side by side with SONS for decades. The Community Foundation has graciously provided financial support, training opportunities and advice to help SONS be successful today and into the future."

The Foundation's grant history with SONS starts in 1996 and totals over \$265,255 in support over the years, with multiple funds giving out multiple types of grants to the faith-based nonprofit organization.



Ernest T. & Barbara A. Oskin Fund provides lasting support for St. Clair and surrounding communities

June 17, 2022

Through an **endowed fund** with the Community Foundation, donors such as Ernest and Barbara Oskin plan for the future by ensuring long-term support for the causes they care about most. Providing for the continued prosperity of St. Clair and the surrounding area is a priority for the Oskins, whose **fund** will contribute to the betterment of the community for generations to come.



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The VOICE

Groundbreaking ceremony takes place for Boardwalk Theatre in St. Clair

Riverbank Theatre presents 'Bye Bye Birdie'



A groundbreaking ceremony took place on June 28 for the newly named Boardwalk Theatre coming to St. Clair.

The event, which can be viewed on the CTV Community Television channel on YouTube, had several speakers, including Riverbank Theatre Executive Director and founder Kathy Vertin, St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff Bohm, Community Foundation of St. Clair County President and CEO Randy Maiers, Frank Moore, Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County CEO Dan Casey and Westhaven Builders Owner Dan Brennan.

Downtown Port Huron to get new glass mosaic

August 8, 2022

Public art makes vibrant communities, and soon downtown Port Huron will have a new 7' mixed-media wave mosaic between the Michigan Mutual and Community Foundation buildings. And the wave won't be alone for long as mosaic fish are also planned for downtown businesses to create a series titled "We Are Different, But We All Swim In The Same Pond."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Former Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society awards \$85,500 in grants, creates new fund with Community Foundation in dissolution process

🕒 August 3, 2022

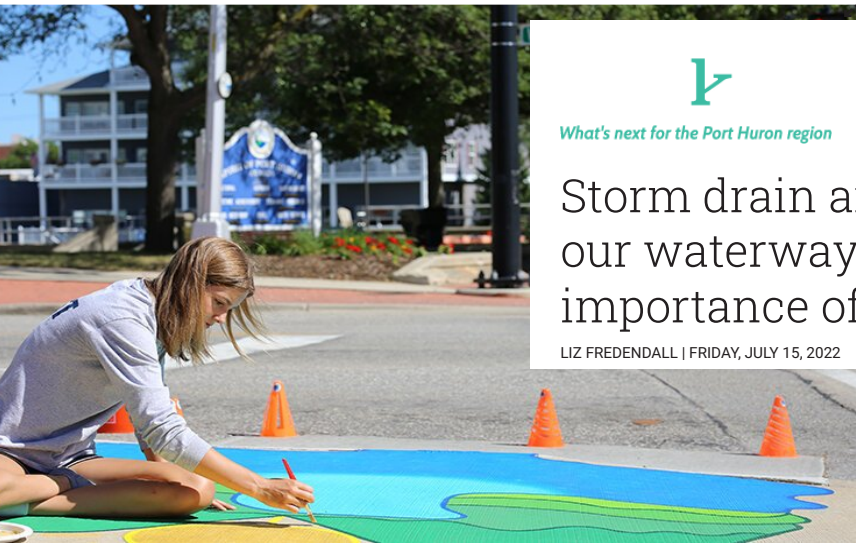
[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The former Port Huron & Detroit (PH&D) Railroad Historical Society worked diligently to bring their time as a nonprofit to a close through the support of 17 organizations and dispersing \$85,500.



“We wanted to honor the significant railroad and maritime-related histories connected with Port Huron and the Blue Water Area by starting an endowment fund with the Community Foundation,” said Dan Meinhard, former president of Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society.

The largest of the distributions is \$35,000 for the creation of the [Tunnel City Railway & Transportation Heritage Fund](#) to support nonprofits caring for, preserving and maintaining railroad, maritime and military historical artifacts. Funds could be used for railway, military or maritime items such as signals, vessels or locomotives on public display at museums or parks for historical interpretation and education.



Storm drain artwork aims to protect our waterways, bring awareness to importance of water runoff

LIZ FREDENDALL | FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)


Stunning artwork has been popping up around our community as a result of one of the Friends of the St. Clair River’s latest initiatives to not only promote local art, but also educate passersby about the importance of storm drains on our waterways.

“We sit at the heart of the Great Lakes which is the planet's largest freshwater source and as such we're accustomed to having access to an abundance of high-quality water so it's important that we keep this water clean and fresh by managing stormwater runoff,” says Sheri Faust, Executive Director of Friends of the St. Clair River. “Stormwater picks up whatever is on the ground and in its path — garbage, litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, gasoline, dirt — all of that is picked up, enters storm drains, and goes directly to our rivers untreated.”

Times Herald



St. Clair County Dive Team to hold annual fundraiser at Milkhouse Cafe Tuesday

 **Laura Fitzgerald**
Port Huron Times Herald
Published 10:00 p.m. ET July 17, 2022

St. Clair County Dive Team boat chiefs Tony Spina and William Wuebben glided slowly on the St. Clair River Tuesday, a sonar computer screen guiding their movements.

As they drove, the sonar painted a picture beneath the water in blue and yellow gradients. Logs and a seawall floated by on the screen.

The sonar equipment was purchased through a grant through the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and funds raised through the dive team's annual fundraiser at the Milkhouse Cafe.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Blue Water Arts Committee gives boost to new web series initiative

🕒 June 6, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Community Foundation’s [Blue Water Arts Committee](#) (BWAC) recently awarded a \$5,500 grant to Port Huron Civic Theatre (PHCT) and Huron City Radio in support of an effort to create a web series pilot that will be featured locally and entered into film festivals worldwide. The grant provided the production with early financial support, helping to offset costs and compensate its cast and crew, who are all from the area.

“The project is a great way to build upon and utilize the talent in our community while offering local creatives a unique opportunity to showcase their skills or possibly explore a new career path,” said Jody Parmann, vice-chair of the BWAC.

Huron City Radio’s creator Daniel Williams was writing a screenplay for a movie when the COVID-19 pandemic began. With filming on hold, Williams took to writing, recording and producing audio dramas and, bit by bit, Huron City Radio released podcasts designed to entertain and amuse during a difficult period.



NEWS

'Everybody's excited': Downtown St. Clair abuzz with construction with parking lot work, new theater build



Jackie Smith
Port Huron Times Herald

Published 9:36 p.m. ET May 9, 2022

A big part of downtown St. Clair is all torn up.

Areas of the parking lot around Riverview Plaza are blocked off as a long-awaited reconstruction project gets underway. And at one corner, a large hole in the ground shows the early signs of the footprint of the \$3 million theater slated to take shape later this year.

But past all the orange cones and construction, local residents and community leaders said they're feeling optimistic.

Mayor Bill Cedar said there is a sense of anticipation for what it will all mean for the area.

"Everybody's excited," he said.

"I think people are generally accepting of it," Cedar added when asked about the inconvenience that comes with construction, particularly on the parking lot. "They understand how bad it was and (are) anticipating how much better it's going to be."

The parking lot reconstruction is being financed by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County in an agreement with plaza mall owners finalized last year, and it's expected to wrap up by mid-to-late June — in time for St. Clair's busier part of the summer.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Youth Advisory Council grant helps fund new mental health resources for students

🕒 July 12, 2022

Thanks to a grant from the [Youth Advisory Council \(YAC\)](#), students across East China School District (ECSD) now have access to new resources aimed at education and promoting conversations about mental health. Through this grant, St. Clair High School's National Honor Society (NHS) provided dozens of curated books highlighting a variety of mental health topics to all ECSD schools as part of its Building Bridges project.

"It's really important that students know the information is there and that they can have conversations regarding what they're feeling or what they're going through so that they can focus and learn as they need to in the classroom," said Suzanne Cybulla, ECSD superintendent. "After COVID, a lot of students have some mental health concerns and feelings of uncertainty so we want to make sure that we are addressing those and making it comfortable for students to have those conversations."

Madison Rzeppa, who recently graduated from St. Clair High School and served as NHS president, submitted the grant application for the student-led project. As an executive board member of MASC/MAHS Michigan Student Leadership, Rzeppa said she was moved to pursue this initiative following the mass shooting in November at Oxford High School in Oakland County.



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Scholarship supports mother and first-generation college student in pursuing her dream nursing career

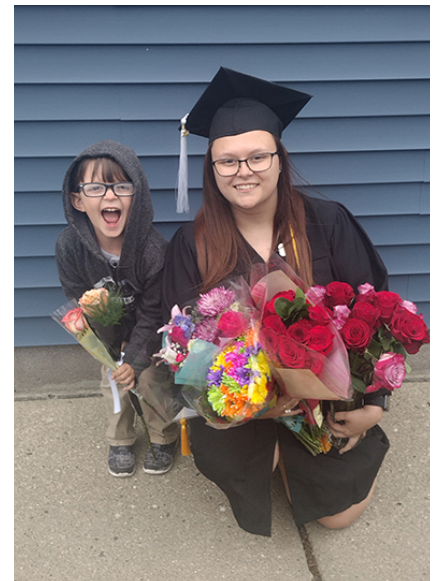
🕒 May 11, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Jessica Hopkins always knew she wanted to be a nurse.

"Several of my family members were in and out of the hospital throughout my life and I always found it so interesting every time I got to visit," she said. "The nurses were so amazing and caring. They were wonderful with my family and I wanted to be able to do the same for someone else."

And now, thanks to the help of the Community Foundation's [Alexander & Celestine Lamere Scholarship Fund](#), Jessica is one step closer to her dream career — this past Friday she graduated from St. Clair County Community College's (SC4) associate degree nursing program, and is starting as a graduate mental health nurse at McLaren Port Huron while she studies for the NCLEX licensing exam.



2022 Wismer Scholarship recipients

🕒 June 9, 2022

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce two new recipients for this year's [John F. & Rose Marie Wismer Community Foundation Scholarship](#): Panayia Melistas and Claire Marquardt.

Thanks to the legacy and generosity of John and Rose Marie Wismer, Claire, Panayia and the other four returning Wismer recipients will receive scholarships this year ranging from \$7,500 to \$13,000. Created in 2003, the Wismer fund is the Foundation's most prestigious scholarship with renewable awards that increase each year to support the area's best and brightest students.



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Lamere Fund awards \$117,000 to record number of students

🕒 July 14, 2022

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

The Alexander & Celestine Lamere Scholarship Fund will support a record number of students this fall with awards totaling \$117,000.

The fund was established by Alexander "Pete" and Celestine Lamere to support Marine City High School graduates attending SC4. Celestine was an elementary teacher in Marine City for more than 30 years, and though she and her husband were not involved much in philanthropy during their lifetime, the unassuming couple saved up over \$2 million. Their trusted financial advisor and [friend of the Foundation Beth Engel](#) helped guide them in trusting the Community Foundation with their charitable giving and lifetime of savings. It is the largest scholarship gift received by the Foundation, and thanks to the power of endowment funds, has grown to over \$3 million and awarded almost \$450,000 in scholarships.



Blue Water Shipmaster’s Fund Scholarship recipient pursues dream of becoming first female First Nations ship captain

🕒 August 2, 2022

Cadet Jackie Day has a dream of becoming the first female First Nations ship captain.

The Aamjiwnaang First Nation resident will be finishing out her last year in the Marine Navigation Technology Program at Georgian College in Owen Sound, Ontario, with support from a [Blue Water Shipmaster's Fund Scholarship](#).

The fund was established at the Community Foundation in 2004 by Captain James C. Acheson in partnership with the International Ship Masters’ Association (ISMA) Lodge #2 to support local students attending the Deck or Engineering program at either the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Great Lakes International Marine Training Centre, Georgian College, or St. Clair County Community College’s transfer program. Typically, awards of \$1,000 are given from the fund each year but due to no applicants in 2020 and 2021, Jackie was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Scholarship & support help single mom achieve her dream

🕒 May 26, 2022

“No matter how long it takes, you can achieve your dream.”

That’s what Douglas & Elda Webb Scholarship recipient DiMond Davis wanted her sons to see as they watched her walk across the stage earlier this month and receive her Associate’s Degree in Nursing (ADN) from St. Clair County Community College.

As a single mother to DeAnthony (13) and Rashad (10), DiMond overcame a variety of obstacles on her path to obtaining her ADN. After graduating in 2005 from PHHS, she spent the last 17 years working in the health care field, much of it spent as a certified nurse assistant. In 2016 she returned to school the first time, attending SC4 for her Licensed Practical Nursing certificate. She returned to Marwood to work five more years before deciding to pursue her associate’s.

While going back to school can be difficult for anyone, when you have children, and especially if you are the primary caregiver, the road back to school can be intimidating and presents additional challenges that other students don’t face. One in five undergraduate students are parents, and of those 43% are single mothers like DiMond. Those parents are more likely to have low incomes and be working through school and less likely to complete a degree than other students. In fact 52% of student parents don’t make it to the finish line like DiMond did.



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Community Foundation awards over \$500,000 in scholarships to local students

🕒 August 10, 2022

The Community Foundation had a record-breaking year for scholarships with over \$507,000 awarded to 166 local students.

With more than 300 applications to consider as well as outside committee recommendations to review, the Community Foundation’s Scholarship Committee had a challenging task. The committee had three new members this year — Cliff Thomason, Jenifer Kusch and Harold Burns — who joined Community Foundation staff in the selection process.

“Being a part of the scholarship committee has given me a renewed respect for the amount of detail, time, care and thought that is put into each and every application,” said Cliff Thomason. “Reading about the students gave me a real perspective of their life and their goals. I am grateful to be a part of such an important initiative ... we are truly changing lives.”



[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



A Little Note Of Thanks

I’m writing this letter to thank you for your grant; this money will be able to cover one semester for me at SC4 and with some left over to buy books when I would’ve had to take out a loan to cover it. I like to reiterate how much this means to me; I come from a low-income household with just me and my mom. She works hard for me and I want everything I can so I can make it easier on her. I promise to make good use of your grant, and I could never write enough words in this letter to truly express how happy I am for it; you are amazing people for everything you do.

Daniell Libetrea

Thank you so much for your generosity and for providing me with this huge opportunity. Without your financial support, I would not be able to earn my child Development Associate. It means the world to me that you are supporting me & I cannot wait to fulfill my dream of earning my COA. Your financial support will also benefit the children at the YMCA because I will be receiving training that I currently do not have. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I am sincerely honored to have received this tremendous scholarship! Your benevolence does not go unnoticed in the community. This scholarship has a door for me to a brighter future and will play a crucial role in shaping me into a more successful person in the future. Donors like you make the future brighter for graduates and I only hope that one day, I too will be able to return the favor and pay it forward. Again, thank you so very much for your generosity

To The Community Foundation and generous donors-

I am beyond grateful to have been selected for the Douglas & Elda Webb scholarship. This opportunity means everything to both myself and my family.

Due to my background I never considered going to college as a possibility for me. My parents put all of their finances into making the dream of moving to the United States a reality. As you can imagine, we have faced many challenges along the way. Thanks to your generosity, pursuing a higher education is no longer one of those challenges. I'm so excited to work towards my dream of becoming a high school history teacher. This fall, I will start my second semester at SC4. After another year here, I will be continuing my education at the University of Michigan - Flint.

I am honored to have been chosen to receive this reward and I'm eager to make the most of this incredible opportunity.

Sincerely,

Zsombor Bora

Zsombor Bora



Dear Charles Myron & Betty Gossman Veterans Scholarship Foundation:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. I am very honored to be the recipient of this scholarship.

I currently attend St. Clair County Community College. I am studying respiratory therapy. I have made the president's honor roll every semester since I started attending. This field of study is close to home. My mother is a lung cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in 2010 and had her left lung removed. My daughter had open heart surgery at four months old. She was born with a heart condition called Tetralogy of Fallot. She has since had an angioplasty of her left pulmonary artery. She also had a stent placed in her pulmonary artery. She was also diagnosed with epilepsy and an iron deficiency. She sees a total of 5 specialist which include an Ent, gastroenterologist, cardiologist, neurologist, and a hematologist. I am a single mom who came from domestic violence background with her father. I left when she was 8 months old and have since worked hard to be the best mom and person I can be. I know by getting my education, I can start a career and provide for my daughter and give her every opportunity life has to offer. I can also use my personal experience to be a great respiratory therapist. My goal and passion is to work with infants and children. I would love to work at a hospital like Mott's Children Hospital.

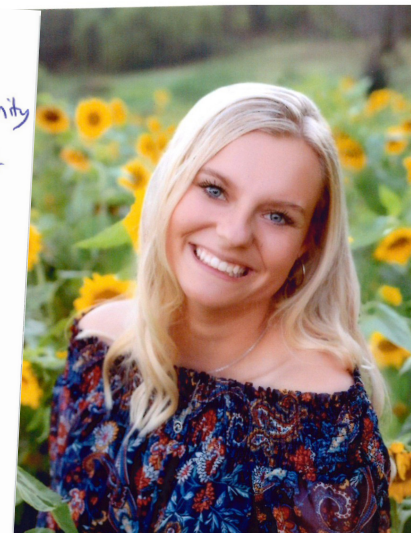
By awarding me the Charles Myron & Betty Gossman Veterans Scholarship, you have reduced my financial burden, which allows me to focus on my schoolwork and my daughter. I hope one day that I will also be able to help struggling single mom students reach their goals in higher education by assisting them in the same way you are helping me. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to change lives. It will not just be my life that is affected but that of the many kids that we come across together. I truly appreciate it!

Sincerely,

Ed Warginelli



Dear St. Clair County Community Foundation, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the St. Clair Foundation Fund possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am going to SC4 in the fall and this scholarship will be in great help to me in paying my educational expenses. I am going to SC4 to achieve my life long dream of becoming a nurse.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. Sincerely, Shavlee Sanger SCHS '22