From one generation to the next, Harkins Family finds great joy in grantmaking.
A Message from Your Community Foundation

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees, staff, and many volunteers present The Legacy, an annual magazine highlighting the Foundation’s work over the past year. Because of strong relationships with 54 generous sponsors (p.32), we are able to share stories of local philanthropists and the resulting community impact in publications like this that reach those in Isabella County and beyond.

Extending our strategic plan in 2022 has given us the opportunity to reflect on our challenges over the last five years and to look for our next opportunities. Critical to achieving our mission, successful fund development over the last six years has resulted in more than $10+ million in contributions to Foundation funds (p.3). We launched Give Local Isabella, an annual day of giving benefiting local agency endowments (p.18). We distributed hundreds of Planned Giving Guides, and new families joined the Denison Legacy Society (p. 24). We celebrated 23 former board members as Emeritus Trustees.

Internal operations were made more efficient with the implementation of a new integrated software solution. We launched an improved online giving platform and a fund advisor/manager portal. In 2020, we were re-confirmed in compliance with National Standards for Community Foundations. We spent less on administrative expenses than was raised in revenue each year, further protecting our ability to function smoothly when our investments fluctuate.

The efforts of nearly 200 community volunteers (p.6) make our grantmaking and awarding of scholarships possible each year. We added dozens of community leaders aged 25-50 to our committee structure. We implemented a new application and review process for grants and scholarships, and provided more applicant technical assistance than ever before. We built relationships around the community that allow us to make proactive grants, to support capacity building among new nonprofit leaders, and to connect local professionals with support from skilled volunteers pro bono (pg. 7).

We continue to work on broad understanding and awareness of our work in community through our website, e-newsletter Community Matters, and social media channels. We strive for transparency while also being mindful of stakeholder privacy. Recently, we added a fourth professional staff member to our team. Our Communication and Donor Stewardship Officer works to assure all information, education, promotion, development tools, and events communicate the story of the Foundation to key audiences in a clear, accurate, and compelling manner. We seek to provide consistent messaging and share the impact made through investment in our work.

Throughout 2022, the Foundation’s Board and committees have been working to develop our next strategic plan. Like many charitable organizations, we are in the midst of evolution, re-focusing on our purpose and re-prioritizing the roles our community needs us to play—to bring people together, mindful of our differences but focused on common goals, to listen to one another, to identify strengths and opportunities, to encourage new and emerging leadership, to make data-informed decisions, and to try potential solutions to improve the quality of life in our community.

We look forward to engaging with you on this new plan in 2023. Stay tuned!

Stay up to date on your Community Foundation by reading our quarterly e-newsletter.

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation
306 S. University, P.O. Box 1283
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-1283
(989) 773-7322 • www.mpacf.org

More than $10 million in grants have been awarded since the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation was established in 1990. It is a notable landmark, achieved in the same year Foundation assets topped $30 million. "Donor contributions the past 32 years are making our community better today and tomorrow," Foundation President Cheryl Gaudard said. "The $10 million in grants — funded by investment earnings on donor-supported endowments — have touched tens of thousands of local lives."

The following data shows five-year results, affected by factors such as stock market fluctuations and the COVID pandemic.
Your Community Foundation exists to support local residents forever

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation works to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Isabella County, now and for generations to come.

We are a tax-exempt charity that enables individuals and businesses to establish their own charitable fund or contribute to an existing fund in support of the community. These donations are permanently endowed, which means they will exist forever.

All fund assets are comingled, invested and managed professionally. The earnings are used to award grants for programs and organizations that address the needs of local residents.

We have helped shape the future of Isabella County since 1990, helping people find and fund causes they love. We also support nonprofits, civic organizations, communities, businesses, leaders and area residents in their pursuit of bold solutions to build strong, vibrant and inclusive communities.

Your contributions are eligible for the highest combination of federal and Michigan tax incentives available. We are happy to help you explore the latest options to give back and pay it forward forever.

Call us at 989-773-7322 or email us at info@mpacf.org. We’re here to support you!

Epicenter: your source for what’s new and good in Isabella County

Mt. Pleasant — in the middle of it all, with exciting news every week.

What? You want to know more?

That’s why Epicenter exists. The online publication drops 100% good news every week, right to your inbox.

You’ll find out about new businesses, restaurants and stores. Profiles of people choosing to move to or remain in Isabella County to raise their families and to work. Announcements about events and activities. And feature stories about efforts to improve our community.

Search for Epicenter Mt. Pleasant on the web. Subscribe for weekly delivery or follow on social media.

Epicenter is funded by the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, along with Charter Township of Union, City of Mt. Pleasant, Isabella Bank, Mid Michigan College, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, Mt. Pleasant Convention and Visitors Bureau, MyMichiganHealth, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
2022 MPACF Committees

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Nonprofit Capacity Building: Catchafire

For the third year, several Isabella County nonprofit organizations are building their capacity through Catchafire. In May of 2020, Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation began a partnership with this virtual platform to leverage a network of more than 100,000 skilled volunteers who will help pro bono with needs such as website development, online marketing, strategic planning, professional development, and other areas of critical work in fundraising, program delivery, human resources, marketing & communications, finance, and technology & operations.

“To continue our support for capacity building among Isabella County nonprofit organizations, the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation is pleased to join with funders throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region to make use of Catchafire,” said CEO/COO Amanda Schafer. “More than thirty organizations serving Isabella County residents have access to this incredible virtual platform at no cost,” she added. “That means stronger, more efficient organizations serving our neighbors, allowing them to be that much more effective in meeting community needs.”

This support from Catchafire empowers our nonprofit partners. Catchafire offers professional assistance from subject matter experts as nonprofits recover from the pandemic and plan for the future. To date, Isabella County nonprofit organizations have leveraged a total of $131,495 in pro bono services as a result of utilizing Catchafire.

Catchafire Spotlights:

**Alicia Crowe**, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Educator at Isabella County Child Advocacy Center

Project: Visual Brand Guide

With the help of Catchafire, the Isabella County Child Advocacy Center developed a visual brand guide that provides a variety of design choices necessary for communicating consistent and coherent messaging. The organization saved $4,212 by working with a Catchafire consultant.

**Kate Connors**, President & CEO at Life Choices of Central Michigan

Project: Individual Donor Letter

Life Choices of Central Michigan appealed to individual donors with a well-written, persuasive letter thanks to the professional guidance offered by a pro bono consultant. The organization saved $2,140 and the appeal letter was successful.

**Natalie VanDyke**, Fundraising and Development Specialist at R.I.S.E. Advocacy

Project: Social Media Content Calendar

This project allowed R.I.S.E. Advocacy to launch on a new social media platform with 4 weeks of scheduled content, and provided the organization with a content calendar template that they can use for months to come. The organization saved $4,212 and built a more succinct online presence because of the help staff received from Catchafire.
Many members of the Youth Advisory Committee join when in 7th or 8th grade and stay involved through graduation. Some are involved longer if they stay in the area for college.

Through these years, their compassion, leadership skills and understanding of needs around them flourish.

“Many of these kids, when they first join the YAC, sit quietly in the back. Two years later, they’re leading groups,” said Nancy Wheeler, administrative officer at the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation and staff liaison for the Youth Advisory Committee.

The committee — known as the YAC — is comprised of student leaders from each Isabella County school district. Twice a year, it advises the Foundation’s Board of Trustees on the awarding of grants from the Kellogg Youth Fund, which supports charitable projects or events that benefit local young people.

“Participation teaches self-awareness, empathy and provides an opportunity to see what’s going on around them, building a true understanding of their community,” YAC advisor Emma Powell said.

Wheeler said grantmaking is incredibly eye opening for YAC members as they learn to respect others’ opinions, put themselves in others’ shoes and look at issues from others’ perspectives.

The Impact of Community Service
When they’re not grantmaking, YAC members are actively engaged in community service and fundraising activities. They volunteer with Christmas Outreach, The Care Store and the Lion’s Chicken Barbecue. They clean up parks. They even go Flamingo Flocking to raise money for the Kellogg Youth Fund.
Incoming YAC President Sam Powell, a student at Sacred Heart Academy, is required to complete 100 service hours to graduate from high school. Participation in the YAC has changed what service means to him.

“I remember how I used to think that service was however many hours I can write down and get a signature for after raking leaves,” he said. He has seen firsthand now that it is so much more.

“The first year we volunteered with Christmas Outreach, I saw a family come in in socks and leave in boots,” he said. “It struck my heart, and I realized just how lucky I was and how YAC changes people’s lives.”

“This experience has opened my eyes to the good that’s in the world,” he said, noting it has solidified his decision to work for a nonprofit someday.

Well-deserved Recognition
This positive influence the YAC has in our community has not gone unnoticed.

Last year, it earned them a Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award and an award for social media use from the Council of Michigan Foundations. This year, they received the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid-Michigan Chapter. Congratulations, YAC members!
Grants Awarded through

Amateur Hockey Association of Mt. Pleasant
AHAMP Youth Uniform and Safety Equipment Renewal
$2,500 – Fabiano Family Fund, Gilmore Family Fund for Youth, Connor J. Puhlman Memorial Fund for Youth

Art Reach of Mid Michigan
Art Walk 2022
$1,682 – W. Sidney and Judith French Smith Community Fund

Beal City Public Schools
Annual Scholarships
$4,846 – Beal City Public Schools Education Foundation Fund

Central Michigan University
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences – 1st Year Student Success
$10,000 – Anonymous Fund

CMU Research Corporation
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

Chippewa River District Library
Build a Better Book Initiative
$2,144.88 – Eckersley Library Fund

Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$9,500 – Pass Through Fund

Conservation Projects and Annual Monitoring of Conservation Easements in Isabella County
$1,250 – Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Fund

Trail Building and Habitat Restoration on the Nature Preserves in Isabella County
$3,671 – Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Fund

Stewardship Projects and Maintenance of Preserves
$558 – Dyke and Phyllis Heinze Conservation Fund

Stewardship Projects, Maintenance of Trails and Removal of Invasive Species at Preserves
$1,407 – William Brehm Memorial/Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Stewardship Fund

Waterfront Preserve Signage
$3,000 – Barbara A. Bissot Fund, Ruth S. and Gerard R. Felter and Florence F. Batenfeld Family Fund, G. Charles and Janice L. Hubscher Fund

Christian Counseling of Mid Michigan
Get Your Game On
$285.87 – Kellogg Youth Fund

Telehealth Technology
$3,100 – Women’s Initiative Fund

Christmas Outreach
Supporting Women and Girls’ Literacy and Physical Needs
$4,000 – Women’s Initiative Fund

City of Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Pleasant Fire Department – 800 MHZ Radios
$26,281.84 – Community Impact Fund, Denison Unrestricted Fund, Hersee Family Fund, Isabella Bank Director Memorial Fund, William and Janet Maar Strickler Community Impact Fund

Isabella County Cause and Origin Team – Camera
$650 – Isabella County First Responders Fund

Clothing INC
Socks and Underwear
$1,000 – Kellogg Youth Fund

Underwear, Socks, and Undergarments for Women and Kids
$2,500 – Women’s Initiative Fund

Community Compassion Network
CCN Food Pantry Automatic Generator
$11,709 – Coyne Family Fund, Fabiano Family Fund, Jane McNamara and Louise Williams Fund, Dr. Leonard E. and Louise A. Plachta Unrestricted Fund

Infant Pantry Supplies
$2,225 – William Ellis Brockman Infant Assistance Fund

Cultural & Recreational Commission of Isabella County
General Operations for CRC
$7,555 – CRC Fund

Eagle Village
Scholarship Program 2021/2022
$4,126 – Kellogg Youth Fund
Endowed Funds

First Church of the Nazarene
Handicap Accessibility – Platform Stair Lift

Friends of the Broadway
Broadway Theater Roof Project

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
Girl Scouting through PEAK
$5,000 – Women’s Initiative Fund

Gratiot Isabella RESD – Great Start Collaborative
Great Start Parent Café Project

HopeWell Ranch
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$10,250 – Pass Through Fund

Humane Animal Treatment Society
Canine Play Yard
$6,900 – Bovee Family Fund, Hersee Family Fund, Missy and Doug LaBelle Family Foundation Community Impact Fund, Weisenburger Family Fund, Andy Wheeler Community Needs Fund

Isabella Community Soup Kitchen
6,000 Meals in 60 Days
$10,000 – COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County, Coyne Family Fund

Isabella County
Deerfield Park Improvements
$5,000 – Rise Family Fund

Hopyness on the Go
$300 – Kellogg Youth Fund

Chippewa River Erosion and Canoe Launch Project
$10,000 – Barbara A. Bissot Fund, Community Impact Fund, Fabiano Family Fund, Jane McNamara and Louise Williams Fund

Operation Safe Seat – Isabella County
$1,500 – Coyne Family Fund

ICYFFS Horse Barn Interior Structure Painting
$20,500 – Ralph and Sonja Baumgarth Family Fund, Community Impact Fund, Denison Unrestricted Fund, Kimber and Judy DeWitt Family Fund, Isabella Bank Director Memorial Fund, David B. and Susan K. Keilitz Family Fund, Kellogg Youth Fund, Jerry M. and Marilyn A. Morey Community Fund, Rapaport Family Fund

Isabella Citizens for Health, Inc.
Children’s Library
$3,000 – Kellogg Youth Fund

Isabella County Soup Kitchen
6,000 Meals in 60 Days
$10,000 – COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County, Coyne Family Fund

Isabella County Restoration House
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

Day Shelter Improvements
$1,500 – Olson Family Fund

Guest Transportation
$3,000 – Kay Smith Family Fund, Summit Petroleum Fund

Leadership Training
$2,760 – Olson Family Fund

Isabella County Transportation Commission
Computer System Upgrades
$5,000 – Rise Family Fund

Isabella County Youth and Farm Fair Society
ICYFFS Horse Barn Interior Structure Painting
$20,500 – Ralph and Sonja Baumgarth Family Fund, Community Impact Fund, Denison Unrestricted Fund, Kimber and Judy DeWitt Family Fund, Isabella Bank Director Memorial Fund, David B. and Susan K. Keilitz Family Fund, Kellogg Youth Fund, Jerry M. and Marilyn A. Morey Community Fund, Rapaport Family Fund

Isabella County Youth and Farm Fair Society
**Issue Media Group**  
Underwriting/Sponsorship  
Epicenter Mt. Pleasant  
$49,000 – Pass Through Fund

**Life Choices of Central Michigan**  
RN Salaries  
$13,072 – Life Choices Medical Clinic Fund

Additional RN Salaries and Blood Draw Chair for Medical Clinic  
$7,625.14 – Life Choices Medical Clinic Fund

Brightcourse Online Access Parenting Curriculum  
$1,429 – Life Choices Parenting Program Fund

**Mid Michigan Industries**  
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021  
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

**Middle Michigan Development Foundation**  
Downtown Pitch – Mt. Pleasant  
$5,000 – Jane McNamara and Louise Williams Fund, Elizabeth Z. Miller & Bruce H. LaPointe Community Needs Fund, Myler Family Community Impact Fund, Sherwood Family Fund, Staples Family Fund

**Mt. Pleasant Public Schools**  
Orchestra Room Storage  
$1,000 – Kellogg Youth Fund

BPA National Leadership Competition 2022  
$4,274 – Mt. Pleasant Business Professionals of America Fund

CMU Wrestling Camp Scholarships  
$665 – Chris Maniteau Memorial Wrestling Fund

**Mt. Pleasant Community Church**  
Metal Pinewood Derby Track for Cub Scout Pack 3628  
$1,000 – Bob and Nancy Wheeler Fund for Scouting

**Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum**  
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021  
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

**Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation**  
Connecting Seniors to the World Wide Web  
$8,753 – COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County, Healthy Youth Healthy Seniors Fund, Pace CM OmniCycle  
$6,000 – Isabella County Health Improvement Fund

**Project Weidman**  
American Flags for Downtown Weidman  
$1,000 – Thompson-Blackmer VFW Post 4106 Community Fund

**RISE Advocacy**  
Shelter Upgrades  
$4,992.41 – R.I.S.E. Advocacy Fund

**Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan**  
Family Support Program 2021  
$3,500 – Kellogg Youth Fund

**Nottawa-Sherman Township Fire Department**  
Equipment and Training for First Responders and Firemen  
$500 – Thompson-Blackmer VFW Post 4106 Community Fund

**Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation**  
Connecting Seniors to the World Wide Web  
$8,753 – COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County, Healthy Youth Healthy Seniors Fund, Pace CM OmniCycle  
$6,000 – Isabella County Health Improvement Fund

**Mid Central Area Health Education Center**  
Health Careers Pipeline

Program  
$4,000 – Ronald H. and Donna M. Cooper Family Fund, David B. and Susan K. Keilitz Family Fund, Kellogg Youth Fund

**Mortgage Payoff**  
$56,784.71 – Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum Fund
Sacred Heart Parish

AthletiCo Soccer Backpacks for the Girls Soccer Team
$564 – McGuirk Family Fund

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Protecting Mt. Pleasant’s Historical Indigenous Collections
$16,353 – Community Impact Fund, Dr. Leonard E. and Louise A. Plachta Unrestricted Fund, Steve and Sue Pung Family Fund, Theunissen Family Fund, William and Janet Maar Strickler Community Impact Fund

Special Olympics Michigan

DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

The Care Store
DOW Great Lakes Bay Invitational 2021
$4,500 – Pass Through Fund

Female Hygiene Products
$2,500 – Women’s Initiative Fund

Caring for Our Youth
$5,000 – Darlene Bond Memorial Youth Fund, Kellogg Youth Fund, Connor J. Puhlman Memorial Fund for Youth

The United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties

Stock Our Shelves
$5,000 – COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County

Female Hygiene Products
$2,500 – Women’s Initiative Fund

Implementation of Volunteer Platform/Promote and Increase Volunteerism in Isabella County
$10,000 – Volunteer Center of Isabella County Fund

Village of Shepherd

Sensory Tower Rubber Mat at Splash Park
$6,897.57 – Kellogg Youth Fund, Shepherd Community Fund Honoring Robert H. Bates

Shepherd Christmas Parade
$1,477.56 – Shepherd Community Fund Honoring Robert H. Bates

William and Janet Strickler Nonprofit Center
Building Improvements
$8,598.73 – William and Janet Strickler Nonprofit Center Fund

Reopen/Refresh
$2,500 – Barbara L. and George W. Dunn Family Fund, Morning Sun Community Fund

Special Grants Awarded without Restrictions:

Community Compassion Network
$3,000 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Forgotten Eagles Inc.
$500 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Isabella County Restoration House
$3,000 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Life Choices of Central Michigan
$2,000 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Potter’s House Global Network
$1,000 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Potter’s House Family Worship Center
$4,000 – Mitchell Family Trust Fund

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation

$911 – Charles E. Anthony Leadership Fund
$2,112 – Hersee House Maintenance Fund
$16,890 – Leadership Fund
$720 – Ray and Georgia Martin Leadership Fund
$4,514 – Morey Foundation Leadership Fund
$635 – Richards Leadership Fund
$447 – Ridley Leadership Fund
Grants allow organizations to grow, evolve to meet community needs

Forever is, well ... a long time. Yet, forever is a reality at the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation.

Part of the value of a community foundation is that its grants come from annual investment earnings on endowments, which then continue in perpetuity.

In this way, the MPACF and its donors are able to support organizations and initiatives as they grow and evolve to meet the needs of area residents, families and businesses.

“Our endowments have impact across generations,” CEO Amanda Schafer said. “The foundation is a hub, helping donors address today’s needs while also keeping an eye on emerging hardships and opportunities of the future.”

More than $10 million in grants have been awarded since the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation was established in 1990. Those grants have been generated by the earnings of what in 2021 surpassed $30 million in assets.

The following stories profile three nonprofits that serve countless area residents of all ages by fulfilling the basic human need for food, fueling the creativity and knowledge of children, and giving all of us space to experience the great outdoors.

Donors support Discovery Museum from dream through newest exhibits

As the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum looks to its 10th anniversary in December, it also approaches the half-million milestone in visitors.

The play-based educational space is one of fewer than 10 children’s museums in Michigan. Its red siding and red and white striped silo foreshadow the brightly colored exhibits that set kids abuzz with the thrill of creative freedom and learning. (Shhh. That’s a secret.)

Behind all of that are founding visionaries, volunteers, staff and donors. Many of the latter maximize their gifts through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. The museum has its own endowment at MPACF, and more than 15 individual endowment funds also have supported the museum.

Before the museum was built, the Foundation held donations for its construction and exhibits. Last year, the museum’s endowment contributed nearly $60,000 to pay off its mortgage.

In between were more than 40 other grants for exhibits, supplies and projects such as a friendship field/sound garden, a traveling beehive and the upcoming 3, 2, 1 ... Blastoff! exhibit.

“There’s tremendous, unwavering support from donors and from the Foundation,” Executive Director Lizzie Dilg said. “They believe in us and the work we’re doing for kids.”

While the museum was created for children through sixth grade, teens also became a focus last year. Social events like movie and game nights were coordinated through a partnership with CMU Health and a grant from the following Foundation Funds: Weisenburger Family Fund, Jane McNamara and Louise Williams Fund and Kellogg Youth Fund.

“All of this community engagement and support means we will continue to get bigger and better, changing out our exhibits and adding to them over time,” Dilg said. “Donors and the Community Foundation are making sure we’ll be here for a long, long time.”
**Chippewa Watershed Conservancy responds to increased traffic at preserves**

The 24 preserves in the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy are more popular than ever, especially those that draw hikers, trail runners, bird watchers, nature enthusiasts, snowshoers and cross-country skiers.

Executive Director Mike LeValley said the preserves welcomed an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 visitors in 2020. The growth continued in 2021, reaching as high as 20,000 people exploring the preserves, which cover 640 acres.

“The increased usage means a lot more time maintaining properties to keep trails safe,” LeValley said. “We used grant money from the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation to increase signage. It’s been a great amount of support. We strive to use the grants to keep the preserves accessible and well maintained.”

One grant allowed the CWC to upgrade office technology. Another provided tools and equipment, including a generator. Foundation grants to CWC since 1997 have totaled $89,521. In 2022, the CWC opened its first urban natural area, a 17-acre site adjacent to Chipp-A-Waters Park in Mt. Pleasant. This Mill Pond Natural Area — Walter and Frances Bolle Preserve provides habitat for mammals, resident and migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. Also in 2022, the Szok Riverbend Preserve, a 3-acre site that provides public access to the Chippewa River, was dedicated.

The CWC organizes events, such as wildflower walks and sunrise hikes. It depends on volunteers to help with the removal of invasive species, tree trimming and trail cleanup. Volunteers also organize the annual fall fundraiser.

Beyond the preserves, the CWC manages 39 conservation easements on private lands — agreements between the landowner and conservancy about how the land will be preserved. The agreements cover 4,695 acres in five counties, including 2,494 acres in Clare and 1,006 acres in Isabella.

**Tackling the growing food insecurity issue MPACF grants help soup kitchen provide meals to those in need**

Food insecurity is a significant concern and more prevalent than ever in the Mount Pleasant area.

Isabella Community Soup Kitchen Executive Director Sara Schafer said their need doubled when the pandemic hit in 2020.

“Prior to the pandemic, the soup kitchen was serving on average 100 meals per day. That number now is around 200,” Schafer said.

The Soup Kitchen has shared free meals since 1990 in a warm, safe environment, where all community members are welcome.

“Feeding people is a basic need. While Mt. Pleasant has support and resources, there are a lot of people who need our services,” Schafer said.

Soup Kitchen leaders strive to cultivate relationships and collaborate with community service entities and businesses to support unmet nutritional needs. Their partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation is pivotal.

Since 2003, the Soup Kitchen has received 47 grants totaling nearly $90,000 from a variety of endowment funds within the Foundation. The grants have supported operational costs such as food and supplies, a major remodel in 2019, the kitchen renovation in 2021, and upgrades to parking lot safety and security lighting.

“The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation has been a huge support to us — a safety net,” Schafer said. “When I began my position earlier this year, they were incredibly supportive and have made the process (of applying for grants) easy and less intimidating. We are really lucky to have them.”

Schafer said the Soup Kitchen always needs grants not only to supply meals, but to offset operational costs as well. For example, she hopes to secure grant funding in the future for an emergency generator.

“It is critical that we have the resources to help people in our community,” Schafer said.
Elizabeth, Christia and John Harkins grew up in Mt. Pleasant, often hearing from their parents how important it is to “give more than you get — in your community, in school and college, at work, and in your volunteering.”

Today, they live hours away — Elizabeth (now Meade) in Virginia, Christia (now Hitesman) in Illinois, and John in Georgia. Yet they’re euphoric about their role in determining which Isabella County organizations and initiatives will receive grants from the endowment their dad, Jack, started in honor of their mom, Connie.

Jack was a fifth-generation Mt. Pleasant resident and met Connie at Central Michigan University. After they married in 1965, they opted to stay and raise their family in Mt. Pleasant.

Jack worked at Lease Management, which operated oil wells for private, individual owners; he eventually became co-owner of the company.

When Connie passed away in 2009, Jack memorialized her life by creating the Harkins Community Fund through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. It is a donor-advised fund, which gave Jack, and now his and Connie’s children, the ability to recommend grants from the fund.

Jack also served as a trustee of the foundation from 2015 until he passed away in 2019.

“Dad wanted us to stay connected to this community,” Elizabeth said. “His love for this community was boundless.”

Grants from the investment earnings of the Harkins Community Fund began in 2014. In eight years, more than $190,000 has been awarded to a number of organizations and initiatives.

This spring, the siblings were thrilled to become lead sponsor of Give Local Isabella, a high-energy, 24-hour, online community-wide fundraising event hosted by the Foundation. Their $30,000 funded prizes and matching dollars for 21 local nonprofits. (See related story.)

“Dad would have loved this!” Elizabeth said. “He would have wanted to be at all the events that day and would have wanted to talk with all of the organizations. For him, it would have been like going to CMU’s best football game!”
John said the grants give him and his sisters — and their parents’ seven grandchildren — a way to stay connected to Mt. Pleasant from afar.

“And Give Local Isabella is a good way to touch a lot of different causes,” John said. “The community knows what it needs; Give Local Isabella addresses those needs.”

“Amanda Schafer (CEO) and the staff of the Community Foundation are an amazing resource,” Christia said. “They know so much about the area’s nonprofits and do a tremendous job ensuring endowment funds meet local needs.”
Mark your calendars for 2023: The second Tuesday in May brings exciting energy and social media hype as Isabella County nonprofits engage in fun competition to engage their supporters.

Give Local Isabella, a 24-hour online crowdfunding celebration, generated $82,399 this spring for 21 organizations that have endowment funds held by the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation.

Donations ranged from $10 to $3,000. When the clock struck midnight, more than 450 donations worth $52,399 had been given during the second annual, MPACF-coordinated event.

Ten $500 prizes also were awarded through competitions such as most donations between midnight and 2 a.m and most gifts from first-time donors. The Isabella Community Soup Kitchen won $500 by participating in training webinars. MMI won $500 by sharing Give Local information on Facebook. View a prize list at https://www.givelocalisabella.org/prizes.

Participating organizations also received $25,000 in matching funds based on their percentage of total dollars raised.

Renaissance Public School Academy and Chippewa Watershed Conservancy raised the most, receiving 19% and 13% of the match pool, respectively. View the results at https://www.givelocalisabella.org/leaderboards.

The Jack and Connie Harkins family generously provided the prize and matching dollars from their donor-advised Harkins Community Fund at the Foundation. (See related story.)

“The Harkins are role models of giving back,” Foundation CEO/COO Amanda Schafer said. “They have huge hearts for our community and residents. Thank you so much, Harkins family!

“Give Local Isabella combines the power of donors and power of endowments. This is why the Community Foundation exists,” she said.

Give where you live!
Vicki Travis has been a member of The Potters House Family Worship Center, a non-denominational fellowship, since 1998. It is where you'll find her closest friends, whom she considers family.

That's why, when Travis wanted to designate money to causes close to her heart, The Potters House was an easy choice. She established The Potters House Family Worship Center Fund in April 2022 to help church leaders carry out their role and mission and to empower their ministry for generations to come.

“This is a way to bless the church with monetary donations but also to encourage others to give back,” Travis said. “I wanted to set up a fund that can accept contributions from others who also have been positively impacted by The Potters House.”

The Potters House was established in 1986 and serves residents of Isabella County. It unites a diverse, charismatic body of believers pursuing the purposes of God through worship and other gatherings, prayer groups, life groups, seminars and conferences, ministry opportunities, and short-term mission trips.

Travis is a lifelong resident of Shepherd.

Thomas Wittkopp Fund

When he approached the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation about establishing a fund to help fellow community members, Thomas Wittkopp wanted to focus on health care and wellness but was intrigued by the breadth of a Community Impact Fund.

The Thomas A. Wittkopp Fund, established in November 2021, may likely address health care and wellness but is designed to help those faced with any unforeseen circumstances.

“Donations have the most impact on community needs in situations that are often unforeseen,” Wittkopp said. “The COVID epidemic is a great example; we never foresaw COVID until it hit us, then everyone had to gear up and many needed assistance.”

Wittkopp’s community impact fund makes grants to charitable programs, services or projects that help address the ever-changing needs of Isabella County residents. “This fund is spread across several community services and can help people of all ages,” he said.

Wittkopp resides in Crystal, Michigan, in Montcalm County, but worked in Isabella County for several years. His support extends across the two counties and will soon expand into Gratiot County as well, where he also lived and worked.
First Presbyterian Church Fund

In October 2021, Jim and Marilyn Bidwell created the First Presbyterian Church Fund in honor of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the church, of which they have been members for 55 years. The endowment fund is designed to provide support to the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan to carry out its role and mission according to its governing documents.

Their pastor, Andrew Miller wrote, “First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant MI (FPCMP) was established in 1871. As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we do not see ourselves as a building but as a group of diverse people who are a part of the body of Christ. FPCMP glorifies God through meaningful worship, music, and service. We strive to shape disciples of Jesus Christ through a variety of Christian formation and fellowship opportunities for all ages.

Outreach is also an important part of the life of FPCMP as we put our faith into action. A few ways that we do inward and outward outreach is hosting the Isabella Child Development Center, Classics at the Presby, Isabella County Restoration House, and AA. Additionally, we serve and support the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, Community Compassion Network, The Care Store, and Vowles Elementary School. As we live out God’s Word, FPCMP has, and will continue to, look outward as we, part of the body of Christ, build relationships with groups and agencies throughout the community.”

Humane Animal Treatment Society (HATS) Fund

The Humane Animal Treatment Society (HATS) Fund was established to support the animal welfare services they provide in our community, both for homeless pets and for community members and their beloved companion animals. This endowment fund will support their mission to empower the community to support the compassionate treatment of all animals.

In 1999, HATS was founded by a small group of dedicated, animal-loving volunteers that came together with a common goal: to save the lives of countless homeless animals in Isabella County. Over the course of the next two decades, that small group would transform into a powerful team of board members, staff members, volunteers, donors, foster homes and supporters that worked tirelessly to combat companion animal overpopulation, promote animal adoption, and provide quality care and safe housing for the homeless pets at the Isabella County Animal Shelter.

With a renovated shelter and a new veterinary clinic, HATS is able to safely care for hundreds of homeless pets each year, along with providing thousands of low-cost sterilization surgeries for community members. Because of generous community support, HATS has increased adoptions and drastically reduced euthanasia reaching “no-kill” status, and they continue to educate the public on animal welfare issues and offer support services to community pet-owners.

As HATS heads full force into a brighter future for companion animals, it sets its sights on further reducing shelter intakes, increasing long-lasting adoptions, providing low-cost medical services to community pet owners, helping other shelters in greater need, and combating the massive population of unowned community cats in order to increase the quality of human and feline life.

The support of this fund will help tremendously in accomplishing future goals for compassionate animal care in the community by helping save lives, reducing unnecessary suffering and increasing the quality of life of humans and animals alike!
**Isabella County Restoration House Fund**

The Isabella County Restoration House opened in 2012 to provide temporary shelter and empower a pathway to self-sufficiency for people experiencing homelessness in Isabella County. Recently, an endowment fund was created to provide support and help carry out ICRH’s mission.

ICRH began as a seasonal, rotating shelter that relied mostly on volunteers. Each week, a different church site would welcome guests in the evening and serve as a warm, safe place until the next morning. Now, the organization also coordinates a seasonal day shelter in Isabella County. The staff at ICRH works to connect those experiencing homelessness with local resources to meet immediate personal needs and with a path to greater independence.

The Isabella County Restoration House and staff also work to advocate for a solution to homelessness in Isabella County. Through the power of endowment, this fund held by the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation will help ICRH continue its mission.

---

**Jim and Joan Hornak Family Christian Counseling Fund**

As a counselor at Midland Bullock Creek Schools, then as a counselor and professor at Central Michigan University, Joan Hornak saw the difference her profession makes. After she retired from CMU, she went to work part-time at Christian Counseling of Mid Michigan (CCMM).

“No one is turned away,” Joan said. “As a consequence of the pandemic, demand for counseling has skyrocketed, and we are seeing so many more children as well as adults. I deeply admire what is happening at CCMM — the dedication and love for clients.”

The Jim and Joan Hornak Family Christian Counseling Fund, new in 2022, assists CCMM in continuing to serve everyone, including those who are limited financially. The family’s desire is to help assure affordable counseling remains available for years to come.

Both Jim and Joan have endowed funds in their names at CMU to help students. The Hornak Family Christian Counseling Fund, though the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, is an extension of their giving.

The fund reminds Joan how she made it through college when an anonymous family friend provided financial help at a critical time.

“That action changed my life,” she said. “When someone is in financial crisis, it’s meaningful to me to help them.”
Gene A. Kunst Gold Star Family Scholarship Fund

Terry and Diane Kunst are longtime supporters of many charitable organizations in our local community, particularly those associated with veterans. In December 2021, they established an endowment fund in memory of Terry’s brother Gene, who served his country valiantly in the Vietnam War.

Gene is memorialized on both the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC and Island Park Vietnam Memorial in Mt. Pleasant. “The grief and sadness felt by so many loved ones are overwhelming, each one matters. We were honored to meet a Vietnam Veteran one day at the wall who was there the day the attack happened and narrowly escaped with his life,” said Terry and Diane Kunst.

Gene was the eldest son in a family of five children and grew up in Blanchard, attending Montabella Schools during his high school years. The Gene A. Kunst Gold Star Family Scholarship Fund will support graduates of Montabella High School with financial need who intend to pursue careers in the skilled trades.

Rosebus Veterans Community Fund

Assets of the Rosebus Veterans Club have grown significantly since the group started in the 1950s. And no matter what happens to the club in the future, members have taken action to ensure its property and financial resources benefit the Rosebus community in perpetuity.

The Rosebus Veterans Community Fund was established in 2021. Each year, earnings from the endowment will go to initiatives and activities in the Rosebus area. Club Finance Officer Jim McConnell said the possibilities are endless, depending on what residents and community leaders need.

“It could be something for the parks, the township or village, fireworks, a Christmas party at Rosebus Manor, something for our Memorial Day Service or for military funerals,” McConnell said. “It’s up to the community to be creative.”

“It’s nice to live someplace where there’s strong community spirit,” he said. “Most club members are lifelong residents here. We want to ensure, even when we are no longer around, that our nearly 70 years of assets always benefit the Rosebus community.”

Jim and Marilyn Bidwell Fund for Basic Human Needs

The Jim and Marilyn Bidwell Fund for Basic Human Needs was established in October of 2021. The fund will support the efforts of organizations in Isabella County meeting basic human needs, including but not limited to food, clothing and shelter. Thanks to the Bidwells, an example is being set for legacy giving through the establishment of their endowment.

Jim and Marilyn have been perennial fixtures in the Mt. Pleasant community for more than 50 years. Jim is a retired CMU faculty member and Marilyn is a CMU alumna, a retired elementary school teacher, and a life member of the League of Women Voters. They are both charter members of Art Reach and Friends of the Library, in addition to being supporters of Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, Morey Cancer Center, and the Humane Animal Treatment Society.
Sherman C. and Shirley J. Rowley Family Fund

The Sherman and Shirley Rowley Family Fund is a community impact fund to support the efforts of charitable organizations in Isabella County. Sherman and Shirley married on March 4, 1973 in Lansing, Michigan. They moved their small but growing family to Mt. Pleasant in December 1979.

Sherm worked for Stinson Helms, then Helms Funeral Home as a Licensed Funeral Director for over 30 years. In July 2010, he and Shirley purchased it and changed the name to Rowley Funeral Home. Shirley was an LPN and worked at the Medical Care Facility for 5 years, became a Registered Nurse and then worked 28 years at Central Michigan Community Hospital—now known as McLaren Central Michigan. She worked on the Mental Health Unit and Obstetric Unit with new moms and babies, which was her passion. Sherm was active in Kiwanis for 43 years, helping with the Special Olympics Carnival and could also be found playing a kangaroo to pass out dictionaries in local elementary schools. He also was a proud and active board member in the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, Pardee Cancer Fund, John H. Goodrow Fund, and Christmas Outreach. He loved to give back to his community by volunteering. He had a love for woodworking and could often be found building things in his own workshop. He helped to build pavilions for the Boy Scouts and floats and props for MPHS Marching Band for several years.

Sherm and Shirley have three children; Sarah, Ann, and Jacob, who all chose to marry and stay in the Mt. Pleasant area to raise their families. The funds from the Sherman and Shirley Rowley Family Fund will continue to impact our community for future years.

Vicki L. Travis Nursing Scholarship Fund

Vicki Travis of Shepherd graduated from high school on a Friday and began her career as a nurse the following Monday. That was more than 50 years ago and she’s still impacting people’s lives through health care.

Her love for her career led her to establish the Vicki L. Travis Nursing Scholarship Fund in April 2022. It will provide educational funding to an aspiring nurse each year.

“Nursing has a special place in my heart, otherwise I wouldn’t have been in it this long,” Travis said. “As a nurse, you’re providing health care, but you’re also a counselor and an encourager. There is so much more to it and it takes someone special to do that.”

The demand for nurses is great, and Travis encourages those who have a passion for it to give it a try.

“If people say they may want to go into nursing, I encourage them to do so and share with them things I’ve learned over the years,” Travis said. “It takes a special person to be a nurse, and, through this fund, I can give back to someone who is interested in going into the field.”
The Denison Legacy Society recognizes those who have named the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift. These gifts are arranged during a donor’s lifetime but take place only after a donor has died, creating a permanent resource in our community. The Legacy Society was established to honor community members like Rollie and Olga Denison. They gave so bountifully to our community during their lifetimes, and continue to do so now and forever because of the planned gifts they made to endowment funds held by the Community Foundation.

To join this esteemed group, arrange for a planned or deferred gift to the Community Foundation for an existing or new endowment fund. You decide the type of gift, the amount or percentage to be gifted, and the cause or causes in our local community to be supported. Visit mpacf.org for more information about planned giving options. To request a planned giving guide, or to discuss how you want your gift to benefit our community, please contact CEO/COO Amanda Schafer.

Legacy Society Members
as of June 30, 2022

Anonymous
*Barbara Bissot
Sue and John Bradac
*Mary Ellen Brandell
Mary Ann and Howard Breuer
*Gerald C. Carter
*Donna J. and *W. Larry Collins
Joneil and William Cook
*Melva K. Coyne
Mary Elizabeth and Timothy Curtiss
Patricia and Mark Cwiek
*Olga and *G.R. (Rollie) Denison
Sarah Douglas
Barbara and George Dunn
*Betty and *J. Dean Eckersley
*Ada Jean and Norman C. Eifler
Jena Eisenberger
Evangeline and James Fabiano
Julie and Kurt Feight
*Rose Marie Fisher
Cheryl and Steve Gaudard
James Goodrich
Marie K. Green
Cindy Hales
*Connie and *Jack Harkins
*Velma and *I.W. “Bucky” Hartman
Phyllis and Dykstra J. Heinze
*Idonea Hersee
Donna and David Hinks
*Sally and *James Hodgins
Ronald Hodgson
Janice L. and G. Charles Hubscher
Catherine and Robert Janson
Ann and John Jensen
Kathy and Alan Johns
*Marilyn and L.A. Johns
Linda and Albert Kaufmann
Sue and Dave Keilitz
Karen and J. David Kerr
*Maredda Magnus
Eleanor and William Martin
Deborah and Steven Martineau
Louise and Bill McCracken
*Jane McNamara
Elizabeth Miller and Bruce LaPointe
Linda Morey
Lon Morey
Marilyn and Jerry Morey
Dianne and Mike Morey
Pamela H. and William C. Myler, Jr.
Dorothy and Mick Natzel
Virginia Nelson
Laura and Tad Richards
Eileen and Bill Rush
Amanda A. Schafer
Donald Schuster
Doris Sherwood
*Kay Smith
Shelly and Mark Smith
Dr. Martha L. Smith
Judith French and W. Sidney Smith
Gertrude A. and Samuel W. Staples
Naomi and Jim Stark
Nolan Stilgenbauer
Janet Maar and *William Strickler

Judith D. and Thomas R. Sullivan
*Nancy L. Theisen
E. Diane Tope
*Elizabeth and *Andrew Tschappat
Charles Walmsley
Gerald R. Watson
Maurine and Bob Weisenburger
*Sally and *Jack Weisenburger
*Louise Williams
Carol and Jim Wojcik
Terrie and Mark Zitzelsberger

*deceased
2021 Gifts In Memory

Charlie Anthony  
Michael Anton  
Mark W. Beard  
Ruth Benjamin-Utter  
Mamba Bennett  
Justine Bernard  
Virgie Bigard  
Tyler Bill  
Matthew J. Boles  
Carl Boog  
Mary Ellen Brandell  
Richard and Mary Ellen Brandell  
Richard Brandell  
Norma Ilene Gilmore Brien  
Margie Bristol  
Gary Brown  
Pablo G. Calderon  
Nancy J. Carey  
Rex Carsalot  
Dr. Ray and Kay Chamberlain  
Larry Collins  
William Collison  
Ronald and Donna Cooper  
Carolynn Cosan  
Janice Cotter  
Nancy Cotter  
Dawn Doublet  
Dreamer  
Thomas J. Endres  
James Dale Ervin  
Beverly Feight  
Rose Marie Fisher  
C. Fitzpatrick  
Bill Foster  
Art Fountain  
Neill Franks  
Ruth Fransted  
Henry Fulton  
Ethel J. Gallagher  
Grant Gauld  
Norman J. Geasler  
Mak’yo George-Dye  
Georgia Grace  
Grandma Joe  
James Grashaw  
Dawn Gray  
John Gross  
Raymond Gross  
Christopher D. Gruss  
Harold Gruss  
Jason Gruss  
Chloe Hampton  
Michael Handlin  
Marie Hardy  
Alice Helms  
Russ Herron  
The Hersee Family  
Floyd and Peg Heydenburg  
Margaret “Peg” Hicks  
Howard P. Himes  
Stephen Holder  
Barbara Ann Ingram  
Steve Inman  
Jake the Golden Retriever  
Adalynn Mae Jessen  
Marilyn Johns  
Bonna Kay Crawford Johnson  
Justice  
John and Rosemary Kasel  
Albert and Louise Kaufmann, Sr.  
Ann M. Keenan  
Anna Marie Klumpp  
Kenneth Kopke  
Harold and Marie Krapohl  
Robert and Geraldine Krapohl  
Gene A. Kunst  
Mark Langlois  
Phil Langlois  
Aaron Jacob Latham  
Tove Lavagnino  
Penny Lezan  
Lou Mantho  
Mildred Mak’yo Marshall  
Vivian Marston  
Darlys McCarthy  
Jonny McCarthy  
Kathleen McIntosh  
Ed McQuaid  
Matt Mertz  
Paul Moegegenberg  
Mom  
Mom and Dad  
George Moreno  
Michael Boyd Morey  
Mother  
Joe Nelson  
Amy Otteman  
Leonard and Louise Plachta  
Gary Rau  
Jeff Reedy  
Ron and Ingrid Roed  
Terry Lee Ross  
Timothy Ross  
Casee Loomis Sackett  
Julia Sauter  
Bonnie Lou Schaeffer  
Harv and Marge Schafer  
Harvey J. “Harv” Schafer  
Kyle Robert Schafer  
Marjorie Christine Schafer  
Tom Shepard  
Jean A. Shepherd  
Kara Shirley  
Kay Krapohl Smith  
Bernice “Bun” (Karcher) Snyder  
Cathy Springstead  
Harold W. and Nancy J. Stegman  
Valerie Stephens  
Gary, Nancy and Cindy Stilgenbauer  
Robert (Bobby) Sullivan  
Joseph Sweeney  
Suzi Tengen  
Shirley Totten  
Mike Tuma  
Mike Turner  
Dr. Carolyn Van Cleave  
Ervin Vogel  
Janice Vogel  
Dorothy Warden  
Doris Watson  
Tommy Watson  
Sue Ann and Ollie Watters  
Sally Weisenburger  
Ruth Wentworth  
Andy Wheeler  
Joanne Witte  
Duane J. Wonsey  
John Zeien  
Bonnie Lou Zingery

2021 Gifts In Honor

Auntie Ev  
Tom Bailey  
Janice Barnett  
Glen Blystone  
Norma Gilmore Brien  
Eunice Burgess  
Blake Buzard  
CMU Alumni  
Cris and Gail Cone  
Nicole (Butcher) Crawford  
Norman Eifler  
Jeff and Cam Ellis  
Ganiard School Project  
Kristina Rose Garafalo  
Carole Heydenburg  
Elizabeth Husbands  
Linda Kaufmann  
Dr. Thomas and Jayne Keating  
Jon Koster  
Bart and Sarah LaBelle  
Michael Libbee  
Lucille  
Tim and Dave Maness  
Beth Miller  
Jerry and Marilyn Morey  
MPACF staff, board, and volunteers  
Mt. Pleasant High School Class of 1959  
Mt. Pleasant High School Class of 1965  
My children, grands and greats  
Jack Neyer  
The Olson Family  
Jodie Percha  
Bob Peters  
Abbie Powell, YAC Secretary  
Renaissance Public School Academy teachers and staff  
Amanda Schafer  
Kristin Sheridan  
Debbie Skinner  
Judy Smith  
Mark, Shelly, Alec, Sam and Hayden Smith  
Joseph Sowmick  
Laura (Butcher) Stadtfeld  
Jan Strickler  
Christie Thielen  
Thrift Shop Volunteers  
Heidi Tracy  
Mary Ann Tuma  
Bob and Nancy Wheeler  
Nancy Wheeler  
Val Wolters  
YAC and YAC Advisors  
Mary Lu Yardley  
Youth Advisory Committee  

2021-2022 MAGAZINE & ANNUAL REPORT ~ Page 25
2022 Scholarships

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation (MPACF) awarded 102 scholarships totaling $139,500 to local students in 2022. The endowment funds generating these scholarships were established by individuals, businesses, and organizations that want to help local students pursue their educational goals. Each scholarship is unique and reflects the values and interests of those who established it. Most of the scholarships support high school students planning to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall. The scholarships also empower students to gain the skills and experiences to better serve their community.

Recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Recipient(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher John Andera Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Oliver Ettinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Scholarship</td>
<td>Avery Gibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blystone &amp; Bailey CPAs Scholarship</td>
<td>Hillary Prout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew J. Boles Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Sophia Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keisha Y. Brown Angel Wings Scholarship</td>
<td>Elizabeth Herron, Anna Terwilliger, Peyton Updegraff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Carey Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Brennan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce and Gerry Carter Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Sophia Watters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna J. and W. Larry Collins/GFWC Scholarship</td>
<td>Sara Peltier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Cosan Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Kiersten Judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison Family Scholarship</td>
<td>Brody Riesberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan K. &amp; Douglas E. Dodge Scholarship</td>
<td>Haley Bendele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Jane (Dubay) &amp; Dwight D. Dodge Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Linzi Wiley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard C. Dubay Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Hanna Fiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Echelbarger Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Amanda Sinclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Dean Eckersley Scholarship</td>
<td>Calvin Keyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor John Engler Scholarship</td>
<td>Evan Devenney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feight Family Business Scholarship</td>
<td>Dana Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganiard History Project Scholarship</td>
<td>Abbie Dziuk, Kennedy Gurski, Mackenzie Millard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garland-Schilling Scholarship</td>
<td>Greenlee Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goenner Family Scholarship</td>
<td>Elizabeth Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerson W. Green Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Darren Flannery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl G. Hartman, Sr. and Caroline Millar Hartman Scholarship</td>
<td>Riley Hacker, Madison Munley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Hartman Study Abroad Scholarship</td>
<td>Camille Weindorf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis A. Heinze Mathematics Education Scholarship</td>
<td>Kelly Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James R. Hodgins Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Nola Boyle, Kelsey McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Bank Scholarship</td>
<td>Kathryn Allmacher, Samantha Farnum, Lydia Grossnickle, Macey Novak, Carlie Peterman, Trista Perkins, Malarie Pinwar, Sarah Storey, Konnor Wilson, Grace Wolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Community Credit Union Members’ Scholarship</td>
<td>Max Evans, Carly Judge, Nicholas Papenfus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella County Retired School Personnel Scholarship</td>
<td>Logan Pritchard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert A. and Catherine A. Janson Scholarship</td>
<td>Jaylinn Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. and Ann S. Jensen Scholarship</td>
<td>Natalie Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Thomas M. &amp; Jayne Keating Scholarship</td>
<td>Esme Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Huber Konwinski and Jerel Konwinski Scholarship</td>
<td>Laura Goenner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konwinski Construction Scholarship</td>
<td>Hunter Conner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold and Marie Krapohl Scholarship</td>
<td>James Backus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas W. Lavoie Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Paige Antcliff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Lemorie Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Paige Walters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert H. Lueth Scholarship</td>
<td>Madison Arens, Kaylynn Budreau, Carra Eagen, Kasey Wallace, Chassadee Winters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maness Family Scholarship</td>
<td>Erica Brown, Breanna Onstott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Family Scholarship</td>
<td>Morgan Conner, Annabelle Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permanently Endowed Funds of the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation

Gifts to the following funds will be invested, and the return on investments will be used to award grants and scholarships that benefit the residents of Isabella County...now and forever!

**Community Impact Funds:**
The following funds were established to make annual grants to charitable programs, services or projects that help address the ever-changing needs of Isabella County residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Wheeler Community Needs Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandit Industries Community Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara A. Bissot Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara L. and George W. Dunn Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bovee Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>David B. and Susan K. Keilitz Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denison Unrestricted Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Leonard E. and Louise A. Plachta Unrestricted Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Z. Miller and Bruce H. LaPointe Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabiano Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher Companies Community Impact Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Charles and Janice L. Hubscher Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hersee Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. Himes Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Bank Director Memorial Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane McNamara and Louise Williams Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry M. and Marilyn J. Morey Community Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Golden Family Community Impact Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Neyer Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>John P. and Ann S. Jensen Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Smith Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimber and Judy DeWitt Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.A. and Marilyn B. Johns Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael D. and Dianne C. Morey Community Needs Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missy and Doug LaBelle Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Impact Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morning Sun Community Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myler Family Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph and Sonja Baumgarth Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranck Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapaport Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald H. and Donna M. Cooper Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth S. and Gerard R. Felter and Florence F. Battenfeld Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schafer Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman C. and Shirley J. Rowley Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherwood Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staples Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve and Sue Pung Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sullivan Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Petroleum Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theunissen Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Wittkopp Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim and Mary Ann O’Neil Community Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Sidney Smith and Judith French Smith Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weisenburger Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William and Janet Maar Strickler Family Impact Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field of Interest Funds:**
The following funds were established to target support at specific areas of community life as defined by their founders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Recreation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism Advantage Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewster Family Access to Recreation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor J. Puhlman Memorial Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Bond Memorial Youth Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eunice A. Sutherland Burgess Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmore Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen and Kathy Blystone Learn to Swim Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella County Health Improvement Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James and Marilyn Bidwell Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Human Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Maar Strickler Access to Recreation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Sue Bradac Family Emergency Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellogg Youth Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ellen Brandell Access to Recreation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McArthur Insurance Agency Fund for Weidman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Oil Industry Food Pantry Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club Access to Recreation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert and Geraldine Krapohl Literacy Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rollie Denison Leadership Institute (RDLI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Enhancement Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosebush Veterans Community Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush Family Community Emergency Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russ Herron Poetry Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally and John Goodrow Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd Community Fund in Honor of Robert Bates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Initiative Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Donor Advised Funds:**
The following funds were established by an organization, individual or family to support the operational, administrative and programming costs of their designated organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Otteman Nursing Education Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Reach of Mid-Michigan Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beal City Public Schools Education Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill and Dolores Myler Hospice House Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill and Janet Maar Strickler Hospice House Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob and Jeanne Long Hospice House Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braitin Memorial Art Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast and Cervical Cancer Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles E. Anthony Leadership Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Manatee Memorial Wrestling Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Cancer Services Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Compassion Network Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuum Homelessness Grant Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave and Sue Keilitz Family MCM Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis and Sandra Olson Hospice House Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick and Mary Ellen Brandell Family Hospice House Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyke and Phyllis Heinze Conservation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eckersley Library Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed and Marcia Schmidt Memorial Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Presbyterian Church Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Broadway Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Library Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Baderschneider Memorial Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hersee House Maintenance Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Organization/Designated Funds:**
The following funds were established by an organization, individual or family to support the operational, administrative and programming costs of their designated organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lon Morey Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGuirk Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morey Foundation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Jaycees Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olson Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optimist Club of Mt. Pleasant Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Arndt Women’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard and Adonna Kennedy Memorial Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard and Mary Barz Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rise Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shamrock Invitational Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stegman Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas R. and Judith D. Sullivan Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson-Blackmer VFW Post 4106 Community Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim and Teresa Coscarely Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tumbl Track Fund Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Fitness Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. E. Martin Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. Sidney and Judith French Community Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wybenga Family Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zitzelsberger Family Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following funds were established to provide scholarships in accordance with the guidelines set by the donors who established them.

Aaron Jacob Latham Memorial Scholarship Fund
Alana and Kathy Johns Scholarship Fund
Arnold and Margaret Sowmick Memorial Scholarship Fund
Art Scholarship Fund
Blystone & Bailey CPAs Scholarship Fund
Brenda Echelberger Memorial Scholarship Fund
Bruce William Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund
C. Jane (Dubay) and Dwight D. Dodge Memorial Scholarship Fund
Carol Huber Konwinski and Jerel Konwinski Scholarship Fund
Carolynn Cosan Memorial Scholarship Fund
Charlie and Jane Kiel Scholarship Fund
Christopher John Andera Memorial Scholarship Fund
Denison Family Scholarship Fund
Donna J. and W. Larry Collins / GFWC Scholarship Fund
Dr. Joyce Ann Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dr. Thomas M. and Jayne Keating Scholarship Fund
Earl G. Hartman, Sr. and Caroline Millar Hartman Scholarship Fund
Eckersley Scholarship Fund
Emerson W. Green Memorial Scholarship Fund
Feight Family Business Scholarship Fund
Gianiard History Project Scholarship Fund
Garland-Scilling Scholarship Fund
Gary Moe Memorial Scholarship Fund
Gene A. Kunst Gold Star Family Scholarship Fund
George and Frances P. Rouman Mental Health Education Scholarship Fund
Goener Family Scholarship Fund
Governor John Engler Scholarship Fund
Harold and Marie Krapohl Scholarship Fund
Harry E. Tope Memorial Aviation Scholarship Fund
Herbert H. Lueth Scholarship Fund
Heydenburg Family Scholarship Fund
Isabella Bank Scholarship Fund
Isabella Community Credit Union Members’ Scholarship Fund
Isabella County Retired School Personnel Scholarship Fund
Isabella Community Soup Kitchen Fund
Isabella Citizens for Health Fund
Isabella County Commission on Aging Fund
Isabella County First Responders Fund
Isabella County Restoration House Fund
Jim and Joan Hornak Family Christian Counseling Fund
Jim and Naomi Stark Hospice House Fund
John and Jean Mitchell Family Fund
Kara’s Korner Preschool Library Fund
Life Choices of Central Michigan Medical Clinic Fund
Life Choices of Central Michigan Parenting Program Fund
Listening Ear Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Fund
Listening Ear’s Consumer Needs and Dreams Fund
Listening Ear Crisis Center Fund
Lon Morey Family Hospice House Fund
McCracken Family Fund
McLaren Central Michigan Fund
Michael D. and Dianne C. Morey HATS Fund
Mid-Michigan Industries Fund
Montabella Community Schools Education Fund
Morey Foundation Leadership Fund
Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation Leadership Fund
Mt. Pleasant Business Professionals of America (BPA) Fund
Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum Fund
Mt. Pleasant Oiler Hockey Fund
Mt. Pleasant Oilers Athletic Boosters Fund
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Education Foundation Fund
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Esther A. Kraus Peacemaking Fund
Pat and Jean McGuirk Family Fund
Phil A. Langlois Fund for Listening Ear
Ray and Georgia Martin Leadership Fund
Renaissance Public School Academy Fund
Richard Brandell and Joseph Sweeney Recreation Fund
Richards Leadership Fund
Ridley Leadership Fund
R.I.S.E. Advocacy Fund
Rocket Football Operating Fund
Schuster Family Fund for Listening Ear
Special Olympics Michigan Fund
The Potters House - Worship Center Fund
United Way of Isabella County Fund
Volunteer Center of Isabella County Fund
William and Janet Strickler Nonprofit Center Fund
William Brehm Memorial/Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Stewardship Fund
William E. and Idonea Hersee House Fund
William Ellis Brockman Infant Assistance Fund
William J. Strickler Clarke Historical Library Fund
Youth Health and Fitness Fund
John D. and Judith M. Williams Scholarship Fund
John P. and Ann S. Jensen Scholarship Fund
Joyce and Gerry Carter Scholarship Fund
Keisha Y. Brown Angel Wings Scholarship Fund
Kenneth and Hilda Schmeck Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund
Konwinski Construction Scholarship Fund
Kristopher Walden “Waldo” Arts Scholarship Fund
Lemmer Family Scholarship Fund
Leonard E. and Louise A. Plachte Scholarship Fund
Maness Family Scholarship Fund
Martin Family Scholarship Fund
Matthew J. Boles Memorial Scholarship Fund
Matthew S. Sharrar Memorial Scholarship Fund
McGuirk/Ganiard West Side School Scholarship Fund
Mercantile Bank of Michigan Scholarship Fund
Michael and Dianne Morey Manufacturing Skilled Trades Scholarship Fund
Mt. Pleasant High School Class of 1959 Legacy Scholarship Fund
Mt. Pleasant High School Class of 1965 Scholarship Fund
Myler Family Scholarship Fund
Nancy Carey Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nolan D. Stilgenbauer Agricultural Scholarship Fund
Norval Morey Leadership Scholarship Fund
Paul Moeggenberg Family Youth Agricultural Scholarship Fund
Phyllis A. Heinze Mathematics Education Scholarship Fund
Richard C. Dubay Memorial Scholarship Fund
Robert A. and Catherine A. Janson Scholarship Fund
Robert F. Murray and Co. CPA’s Scholarship Fund
Rotary Scholarship Fund
Scottie Miller Memorial Special Education Scholarship Fund
Shepherd Football Scholarship Fund
Shepherd Public Schools Scholarship Fund
Shirley Lemorie Memorial Scholarship Fund
Stokes Elementary Education Scholarship Fund
Sue Ann Watters Music Scholarship Fund
Supercarguy Scholarship Fund
Susan K. and Douglas E. Dodge Scholarship Fund
Thomas W. Lavoie Memorial Scholarship Fund
Vicki L. Travis Nursing Scholarship Fund
Watson Family Scholarship Fund
Zonta Club of Mt. Pleasant Scholarship Fund

**Special Project Funds of the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation**
Temporary, non-endowed funds established to support special projects.

**COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Isabella County**
Isabella County Nonprofit Service Center Fund
Dear Clients and Friends:

With lots of news about tax changes at the federal level, it is time to start thinking about moves that may help lower your tax bill for this year and next. This year’s planning is more challenging than usual due to the uncertainty surrounding proposed legislation that could increase top rates on both ordinary income and capital gains starting next year or completely change the federal income tax as we know it for certain taxpayers.

The standard year-end approach of deferring income and accelerating deductions to minimize taxes will continue to produce the best results for all but the highest income taxpayers. Bunching deductible expenses into this year or next to avoid restrictions and maximize deductions will also be helpful. This is true whether or not tax increases become effective next year.

If proposed tax increases do pass, however, the highest income taxpayers may find that the opposite strategies produce better results: Pulling income into 2021 to be taxed at currently lower rates, and deferring deductible expenses until 2022. This will require careful evaluation of all relevant factors.

We have compiled a list of actions based on current tax rules that may help you save tax dollars if you act before year-end. Please review the following list and contact us at your earliest convenience so that we can advise you on which tax-saving moves might be beneficial in your particular situation:

• Higher-income individuals must be wary of the 3.8% surtax on certain investment income. The surtax is 3.8% of the lesser of: (1) net investment income (NII), or (2) the excess of modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) over a threshold amount ($250,000 for joint filers or surviving spouses, $125,000 for a married individual filing a separate return, and $200,000 in any other case).

• Legislative changes to the 3.8% net investment income tax proposed to be effective after this tax year would subject high income (e.g., phased-in starting at $500,000 on a joint return; $400,000 for most others) S shareholders, limited partners, and LLC members to NIIT on their pass-through income and gain that is not subject to payroll tax. Accelerating some of this type of income into 2021 could help avoid NIIT on it under the potential 2022 rules, but would also increase 2021 MAGI, potentially exposing other 2021 investment income to the tax.

• Long-term capital gain from sales of assets held for over one year is taxed at 0%, 15% or 20%, depending on the taxpayer’s taxable income. If you hold long-term appreciated-in-value assets, consider selling enough of them to generate long-term capital gains that can be sheltered by the 0% rate. The 0% rate generally applies to net long-term capital gain to the extent that, when added to regular taxable income, it is not more than the maximum zero rate amount (e.g., $80,800 for a married couple;...