

## The NEW Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant Supporting the OPERATIONS of our Nonprofits

Nonprofit organizations are an important part of the overall economy. One in every ten jobs in the U.S. are in the nonprofit sector. On occasion, nonprofits sacrifice operational support to focus on programming. A new grant opportunity through the Berrien Community Foundation, **The Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant** will be awarded annually to support nonprofits as they seek creative

ways to take care of employees and find organizational sustainability.

“This effort started when an anonymous donor approached the Community Foundation. The donor was troubled by seeing nonprofit employees working long hours for lower pay, and often without benefits,” said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey. “The Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant is \$75,000 given over three years - \$25,000 each year.”

**St. Joseph Today** received the first Alamar Grant at the BCF Annual Celebration. “This grant will allow us to provide health insurance and a retirement plan for our employees,” Amy Zapal, the Executive Director of St. Joseph Today said. “If they begin to invest in their retirement now, this could allow them to be givers when they are able to retire.”

Information on applying for the Alamar Grant will be available soon through the Berrien Community Foundation.



St. Joseph Today Executive Director Amy Zapal accepts the first Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant.

## Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Grant Bridging the Service Gap

**Ferry Street Resource Center** in Niles received the \$50,000 **Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Grant**. The grant will support programming and efforts to bridge the gap between services that are difficult for south county residents to access because of transportation issues.

“Working for over a decade now in Niles, Ferry Street Resource Center has accomplished many wonderful collaborative works for our Niles residents,” said Jeff Upton, son of Steve Upton, who presented the award. “**We need this organization to grow and expand as our needs in south county expand.** So, this year we are funding \$25,000 immediately and will work with Ferry Street and encourage them to match another \$25,000. This should bring total funding up to \$75,000, allowing them to further grow and meet the community needs.”

The Love Your Community Grant is presented each year to a Berrien County nonprofit organization that addresses a crucial community need and makes a positive impact in the lives of Berrien County residents.



Ferry Street Director Ric Pawloski, Elizabeth Upton, Arquilla Lewis and Jeff Upton stand behind Steve Upton.

# BE COUNTED BERRIEN2020

## Home Is Where Your ❤️ Is

The U.S. Census Bureau counts each resident every 10 years and 2020 is the year. The Census count is used to secure Berrien County's fair share of federal funds. **It's vital that every one of us be counted.**

People with homes in Berrien County and another location can choose to be counted in Berrien County if that is the place they consider to be home. The Census will only count your family in one location and that is the place where your census-based funding dollars will benefit.

Census-based funding is used for roads, bridges, education, school lunches, Head Start, Medicare, Medicaid, children's health insurance, childcare and

many more programs.

Based on Census projections, Berrien County is at risk of losing over \$44 million per year for 10 years ... that's \$440 million due to residents who do not complete the Census form. That is money we have today that we are at risk of losing if we don't count everyone.

**What can you do?** Talk about the Census with your friends, neighbors and colleagues. The Berrien Community Foundation is teaming with our nonprofit partners to encourage everyone to complete the Census. **Everyone Counts.** For more information, contact Kathy Stady at 269-983-3304.

## Recognizing Greatness!

### 2019 Golden Acorn Awards



BCF Board Member Phil Maki, with Ghostlight's Paul Mow and Marty Hesse

**The 2019 Golden Acorn Award for Arts Innovation**, including a \$4,000 grant, was presented to **Ghostlight Theater** in Benton Harbor. "The Ghostlight took an abandoned building and changed it into a place where theater, music and art abound," said Phil Maki, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, as he presented the award. "This volunteer effort shows how a great idea and a lot of hard work can turn into

something wonderful for the entire community."

**Carol Oehlhaffen**, a BCF volunteer for more than 30 years received the **2019 Golden Acorn Award for Volunteerism**.

Oehlhaffen has volunteered with the youth advisory committee, scholarship committees and multiple BCF volunteer efforts. She is also a long-standing volunteer with Birthright, Lake Michigan Catholic Schools and the Readiness Center. The award accompanies a \$1,000 grant to the charity of her choice.



Carol Oehlhaffen and BCF Board Member Tom Nelson

## Backpacks FOR GOOD

In August, the Berrien Community Foundation teamed with a group of **more than 70 volunteers** to welcome students back to school with 750 backpacks filled with school supplies.

This back-to-school event for **Coloma, Watervliet and Hagar #6 families** also included free vaccinations, a mobile food pantry, and library card sign-ups, along with parenting and mental health information.

