

The Berrien Community Foundation Appoints New Members

The Board of Trustees of the Berrien Community Foundation recently appointed **13 new members: *Velois Bowers, Fran Chickering, Michael Damschroder, Marcia Fettig, Patricia Forbes, Marty Golob, Candice Johnson, Judith Krueger, Rev. Joel Kruggel, Anson Lovellette, Al Pscholka, Char Pugh Tall, and Ray Roberts.*** They join the other 46 members of the Foundation.

These new appointments are in recognition of all the time, resources, and energies these 13 individuals contribute to the greater Berrien County community. These members act as ambassadors for the Foundation, are the critical core of the volunteer committees, elect Trustees, and generally support the Foundation's work.

"We are very pleased to have these 13 outstanding community volunteers join us as members," said President/Executive Director Dr. Nanette Keiser, "Their community perspectives and insights will be very valuable to fulfilling our mission to serve Berrien County".

The Berrien Community Foundation was founded by William Vawter and other local leaders in 1952. Its mission is to build permanent endowments and other funds, provide donor services and grants, and to serve as a facilitative leader and catalyst in the community.

For more information on the Foundation, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, at 269-983-3486 or nkeiser@qtm.net.

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Berrien Community Foundation Awards over \$45,000 in Scholarships

The Berrien Community Foundation will provide over \$45,000 in new college scholarships to Berrien County students in the 2004-05 school year. The scholarships were celebrated at a recent luncheon for donors and scholars in June.

"The donors who make these scholarships possible are providing the very special gift of education to our young people," said Berrien Community Foundation President Dr. Nanette Keiser. "The individuals receiving these scholarships represent the best of our youth. These scholarship dollars are an integral part of making their dreams a reality."

Following is a list of scholarships and recipients honored at this luncheon.

Athena Scholarship of Women's Service League Benevolences: Established in 2002, this scholarship is to provide annual scholarships for outstanding young women who have shown a commitment to their communities through philanthropy and volunteerism. Recipient: ***Bridgett Blough***

Edna Bender Scholarship: Established in 2000, this scholarship supports Berrien Springs High School students pursuing careers in business and was created by Mrs. Bender, a long-time business teacher at Berrien Springs High School. Recipient: ***Adam Rogers***

Jameson Matthew Gargano Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was established through the outpouring of love from our community for a boy who was diagnosed with cancer. In 1996, 14-year-old Jay Gargano lost his battle but before he died, this brave young man told his family "don't forget the children." The family took the remaining funds and established The

Jameson Matthew Gargano Memorial Youth Fund to provide assistance for families of children with cancer and to support an annual scholarship for a Lakeshore High School graduate.

Recipient: *Ashlee Klug*

The Heart of Cook Scholarship Program: Established in 2003, this scholarship is to encourage the high school students of Berrien County to explore and excel in the areas of engineering, math, science, and other technical disciplines, and to provide scholarship support for pursuing those technical goals. Recipients: *Kevin Bury, Stephen Jeske, Paul Reitz, Justin Sobecki, Andrew Whitten*

John E.N. & Dede Howard Instrumental Music Scholarship: This scholarship was established to encourage young people with a gift for music and the drive to be a musician to continue with their formal education. Established in 1996, this scholarship has made college possible for so many students and has helped train future musicians and instructors. Recipient: *Evan Margol*

John E.N. and Dede Howard Endowed Music Scholarships for Lake Michigan College: These scholarships are for outstanding students studying instrumental music at Lake Michigan College. Each year, faculty within the LMC Music Department provide scholarship recommendations to the Berrien Community Foundation. Recipient: *Andrew Kroepel*

Ron Jelinek Leadership Scholarship: State Senator Ron Jelinek took a controversial pay raise and gave it to our community. A scholarship is given to one student from every school district in Berrien County. The students were selected based upon their community involvement and leadership activities. Recipients: *Tenecia Butler, Jennifer Davis, Ashley Emhoff, Daniel Ferris, Amy Griggs, Laura Hauch, Ashlee Klug, Joshua Mann, Nieta Maxie, Breanna Peare, Wade Richardson, Monica Sendor, Karen Warmbein, Lindsey Wilson*



Tenecia Butler, Jelinek Scholarship recipient, describes how this scholarship makes it possible for her to pursue her dreams

Leonard & Marion Krall Family Memorial Scholarship: In its third year, this is a scholarship to a Watervliet High School graduate pursuing a teaching career and who has demonstrated good citizenship and character. Pamela Leonard's mother, Marion Krall was an English teacher at Watervliet High School many years ago. Her father, Leonard Krall was a local fruit farmer and a great supporter of the Watervliet High School athletic department. Recipient: *Rebecca Atherton, Maria Wyatt (Renewal)*

Lora Wile-Miller Memorial Scholarship: On April 22, 1997, the world lost an outstanding teacher, a wonderful person, a loving wife, daughter, sister, and a special friend. To honor Lora, her family established the Lora Wile Miller Memorial Scholarship to assist a college freshman interested in becoming an elementary teacher. This scholarship alternates each year between Lakeshore Schools and Kent, Washington Schools. Recipients: *Madeline Garlock, Jolynne Reiman* (Kent, WA)

Ronald H. Miller Broadcast Journalism Scholarship: Established by Trisha Miller in loving memory of her husband, Ron Miller, this program provides scholarships to full-time students pursuing bachelor's degrees in broadcast journalism at accredited schools in Illinois, Michigan or Indiana. Recipients: *Brad Coffman, Nicole Lipin, Stephen Sparks*



Stephen Sparks, Ronald H. Miller Journalism Scholarship recipient, shares the impact of this scholarship on his college career

Carol A. Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship: This scholarship awards students involved in TEAM, the Berrien Community Foundation's youth advisory committee. This scholarship is given to TEAM members who, like Carol Oehlhaffen, exemplify the values of philanthropy, leadership, and volunteerism. Recipients: *Monica Sendor, Lindsey Wilson*

Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship rewards students from Berrien Springs High School who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. This scholarship is renewable for 4 years, making a major impact on the life of the student recipients. Recipient: *Jihye Ha*



Jihye Ha, Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship recipient, shares how this scholarship will make a difference in her future educational career.

Terry Richcreek Memorial Scholarship: Terry Richcreek loved the game of golf. To honor his love of this sport, a dear friend established this scholarship in his memory. The scholarship is awarded each year to a Watervliet High School student who shares Mr. Richcreek's love and respect for the game and who exhibits true sportsmanship in their play. Recipient: *Robert Belter*

Don J. Sayan/W. Jack & Dr. Nanette M. Keiser Scholarship: This scholarship was established by Jack and Nanette Keiser in memory of Nanette's beloved grandfather, Don J. Sayan, a lifelong learner. Jack and Nanette are also first-generation college graduates who wish to assist others to obtain their dreams through education. This will be rotated among the 18 schools in the County. Applications were distributed at the Benton Harbor High School in 2004. Recipient: *Reshonda Atkins*

Second Homeowner's Scholarship for New Buffalo: Established by an anonymous donor, this fund encourages other second homeowners to give back to the New Buffalo area residents. Recipients: *Jennica Simcox, Emily Taylor, James Leo Oman*

Stout/Dashner Scholarship: This scholarship was established by Roselle and Terry Stout to honor Watervliet's efforts regarding Erica Dashner. Erica was co-chair of TEAM and also a recipient of 2 scholarships through the Berrien Community Foundation. Roselle and Terry wanted to honor her and others at Watervliet High School via this scholarship program. Recipient: *Maholla Dildine*

Twin Cities Insurance Women's Scholarship: This scholarship was established by the Twin Cities Association of Insurance Women (Berrien County/South Haven) to assist second year Lake Michigan College students with a preference for students in business studies. Recipients: *Rachelle Shurn, Ryan Harris, Jennifer Eubanks, Lauren Lindenmulder*

Wayne K. Wright Scholarship: A retired counselor at Berrien Springs High School, it only made sense that Wayne Wright would establish a scholarship to assist the same students he has worked with for so many years. The Wayne Wright Scholarships provides a scholarship for a graduating Berrien Springs High School Senior who demonstrates leadership and a commitment to the community through volunteerism. Recipient: *Megan Villwock*

For more information on how to establish a scholarship or other endowment fund, call 269-983-3486.

Berrien Community Foundation Grants \$74,800

Berrien County: The Berrien Community Foundation recently awarded \$74,800 in grants to Berrien County non-profit organizations. Grants focused on the areas of building spirit of community, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, and general support.

"It is very important that the Foundation continually supports the nonprofit organizations in Berrien County as they serve their various stakeholders," said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation executive director. "These grants represent a wide range of much-needed programming from community policing to camp scholarships for at-risk youth."

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation's youth advisory committee, focuses on programs to strengthen the youth in Berrien County through education, drug abuse prevention, positive entertainment choices, and teen pregnancy reduction. This group recommended a total of \$15,000 in grants, including support for the Homeless Youth Care Program—the Link Crisis Intervention Center/Child & Family Services of SW Michigan (\$10,000) and the Turning Point Program—the Salvation Army (\$5,000).

Nurturing our children grants encompass parent support and education, positive activities for families and children, community support and involvement, mentoring, and drug abuse/prevention and awareness. Curious Kids Museum received \$6,000 for its Inside/Outside: Skin Deep program, First Assembly of God received \$3,000 for its Club 26nine program, and the LaSalle Council, Boy Scouts of America, received \$2,000 for camp scholarships for at-risk youth.

Building the spirit of community grants focus on encouraging economic independence, community planning & planned economic development efforts, and community cohesiveness; promoting access to services and information; and promoting cultural inclusiveness. Grants were made to the City of Benton Harbor's Community Communications Project (\$3,500), Cornerstone Alliance's Coming Home Coming Together Concert (\$2,500), Emergency Shelter's Sisterhood Club (\$2,500), and Junior Achievement's JA Success Skills for Benton Harbor Schools (\$2,000). In addition, the Community Policing effort received \$15,000, and the Neighborhood Funding Partners/Block Grants received \$16,000.

General grants were also made to the Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan for Project SAVE (\$2,000) and Fernwood for its Traveling Naturalist Program in the Benton Harbor Schools (\$1,500). Luvability Ministries (Here Comes the Balloons) received \$1,800 and the Saint John and Bernard Parish received \$2,000 for HOYA, the LOFT, the Readiness Center, and the Community Center.

The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned citizen could put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County residents. The Foundation is a union of numerous gifts, bequests, and other contributions that form primarily permanent endowments. The income of these endowments is used to make grants to charitable agencies and institutions serving the residents of Berrien County and elsewhere and to provide scholarships. The next grant application deadline is September 15, 2004.

The Foundation offers a wide variety of charitable giving opportunities to help individuals invest in the future of our area. Donors can shape gift agreements to meet both their financial objectives and charitable aspirations. For more information about giving through the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, Executive Director, at 983-3486 or nkeiser@qtm.net.

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Neighborhood Block Club Grant Program Unveiled

Benton Harbor: Cornerstone Alliance, the Berrien Community Foundation, and United Way of Southwest Michigan are jointly providing up to \$49,000 for a neighborhood block club grant program in Benton Harbor.

United Way of Southwest Michigan President Martin Golob said, “We have chosen to collectively pool our resources to work with the Citizens for Progressive Change (CPC) and the Council for World Class Communities (CWCC), to in turn partner with the City of Benton Harbor and the Benton Harbor Police Department to provide funding for the creation and implementation of Block Clubs. We are also dedicating these funds as a means to show local participation in the Community Policing Proposal.”

“Our hope would be that by our allocating funds now it will allow for this process to be ‘jump-started’ to create a stronger relationship between the Community Policing strategists and the community residents. We also see the process as a way to structurally link the membership of the CPC and CWCC with the residents and the Community Policing Proposal,” added Golob.

Berrien Community Foundation Executive Director Dr. Nanette Keiser said, “We have pooled our resources to offer \$20,000 of Block Club Grants and \$6,000 for Capacity Building Grants to be administered under the discretion of the CPC, CWCC, and City of Benton Harbor. The idea would then be to allow for an additional \$20,000 for Block Club Grants and up to an additional \$3,000 of Block Club Capacity Building Grants respectively on completion of the first round of funding.”

“Contingent on the success of these first two rounds of Block Club endeavors, Cornerstone Alliance or all of us collectively will endeavor to raise at least \$20,000 and potentially more per year for up to two more years to enhance the ongoing activities of Block Clubs. At the end of the third year, we would all evaluate the impact of the program and determine if the community should make the continuation of the program a priority,” added Keiser.

Cornerstone Alliance President D. Jeffrey Noel said, “We chose to allocate funds for the Block Clubs as a way of collectively pooling our resources to make the greatest impact possible within the community.”

“Community Block Clubs will be eligible to apply for these funds to make systemic change in their neighborhoods. If no club exists, citizens that wish to band together to form a Block Club can. Funds will also be available to create capacity to develop the leadership necessary to bring about lasting change in the neighborhoods. The block clubs will be accountable to show how the money was used and what tangible results occurred,” added Noel.

Plans call for a June round of funding for Neighborhood Block Clubs with a late fall round of additional funding for the remaining \$20,000 and \$3,000 for Capacity Building. For further information on the program, please contact the Council for World Class Communities at 934-9286.

Berrien Artist Guild Establishes Endowment

The Berrien Artist Guild recently established an endowment fund at the Berrien Community Foundation.

The Guild, after a successful auction hosted by honorary chairs Harry and Jean Gast, transferred proceeds to the Foundation to start the fund. Called the Berrien Artist Guild Art Endowment Fund, it is

intended to ensure the continuation of diverse arts programming and access to this programming for area residents of all ages long into the future.



Auction Honorary Chair Jean Gast and Board President Terry Fish of the Berrien Artist Guild present Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation, with a check to establish their fund.

“We’re excited about partnering with the Berrien Community Foundation, “ said Terry Fish, Berrien Artist Guild President. “The Foundation will provide professional management and investment services, freeing us up to focus on our mission. Donors making contributions directly to the fund will have the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit available, in addition to the regular tax deduction for such contributions.”

Since 1962, the Berrien Artist Guild has provided a forum where artists can learn from each other, work together, and sponsor programs for the community. Its mission, through the Box Factory, is to create an outstanding place to practice and celebrate artistic diversity. The Guild’s members are committed, focused, and driven to continuously generate opportunities for regional artists while interacting, educating, learning, and growing with the community at large. The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned citizen could put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County residents. The Foundation is a union of numerous funds, gifts, bequests, and other contributions that form permanent endowments. The income of these endowments is used to make grants to nonprofits, like the Guild, that serve the residents of Berrien County.

Gifts to the Guild’s endowment may be mailed to the Berrien Community Foundation, 2900 S. State St., Suite 2E, St. Joseph, MI 49085 or the Berrien Artist Guild, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI 49085. For more information about this fund or how to donate to it, call Dr. Nanette Keiser, Executive Director, at 983-3486 or NanetteKeiser@berriencommunity.org.

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Berrien Community Foundation Grants \$143,000

The Berrien Community Foundation distributed \$143,000 in grants to Berrien County non-profit organizations at its December 3 reception at the M-Tec Center, Benton Harbor. Grants were presented in the areas of building spirit of community, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, the Golden Acorn mini-grants, and healthful living.

“It is critical that the Foundation support the nonprofit organizations in Berrien County as they serve their various stakeholders,” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation executive director.

“These grants represent a wide range of much-needed programming from mini-grants for teachers to children’s advocacy programs to wellness programs for seniors.”

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation’s youth advisory committee, focuses on programs to strengthen the youth in Berrien County through education, drug abuse prevention, positive entertainment choices, and teen pregnancy reduction. This group recommended a total of \$62,000 in grants, including support for the Teen Activity in the Community program at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor (\$25,000) and the Youth Activity Club at Country View Apartments (\$6,034) in Benton Harbor (Residential Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc.). This group also supported \$9,000 of the \$10,000 grant to Lakeshore Public Schools to support the band’s activities at the WWII Veteran’s Memorial dedication in Washington and youth activities at the Trinity Lutheran Church and School (\$8,000).

The **Healthful Living Endowment** grants are for programs that create a healthier lifestyle for youth and seniors in Berrien County. Projects funded totaled \$58,000, including the Berrien County Smoking Cessation project (\$15,400), InterCare Community Health Network’s Car Seat Project (\$9,000), Region IV Area Agency on Aging’s Senior Companion Program (\$19,600), and the Renaissance Enterprises Company’s Healthy Senior Outreach (\$10,000).

Nurturing our children grants encompass parent support and education, quality childcare, positive activities for families and children, community support and involvement, mentoring, and drug abuse/prevention and awareness. Safe Shelter received \$4,700 for its Children’s Advocacy program and Milestones of Southwest Michigan, Inc. was granted \$3,385 for its Children’s and Teen’s Special Needs programs, among others.

Building the spirit of community grants focus on encouraging economic independence, community planning & planned economic development efforts; encouraging community cohesiveness; promoting access to services and information; and promoting cultural inclusiveness. Grants were made to the One Book/One Community project (\$2,419), Lakeshore Public Schools’ Michigan WWII Band (\$1,000), Coloma Public Library (\$1,000), and the Tri City Skate Park (\$1,000), among others.

Seventeen teachers across Berrien County received a total of \$5,000 in **Golden Acorn classroom mini-grants**. Additionally, Harbor Habitat for Humanity (\$3,000) and the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (\$1,000) received grants for their efforts in Benton Harbor and New Buffalo, respectively.

“Prior to this set, the Foundation has granted over \$234,000 to our local non-profit agencies and scholarship recipients this year,” said Foundation President David Allen. “What is so incredible is that because most of these grants are from permanently endowed funds, community grants will continue every year well beyond our life times. A scholarship recipient from this year could live see his or her grandchild receive the same scholarship from the Berrien Community Foundation. That is the power of giving and granting through endowments.”

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The Foundation offers a wide variety of charitable giving opportunities to help individuals invest in the future of our area. Donors can shape gift agreements to meet both their financial objectives and charitable aspirations. For more information about giving through the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, Executive Director, at 983-3304 or nkeiser@qtm.net.

Community Foundation Members Elect New Trustees for 2003-2004

Berrien Community Foundation members recently elected three new trustees to serve a six year term—Reverend James Childs, Brenda Layne, and Jane Marohn. The members also elected St. Joseph attorney Mark Miller an honorary Trustee for his service as a Board Trustee for 12 years, including 3 years as Board President. During his tenure, the Foundation grew in regard to its grants, assets, and community leadership.

*The Board of Trustees recently elected six new members to the Foundation—*Perry Ballard, Kenneth Bannen, Marilyn Klawiter, Mark Mitchell, Tim Passaro, and Glenn Poole. These members will volunteer on the Foundation's various committees, which are the backbone of the Foundation's service to the community.

Reverend James Childs is the pastor of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, with 18 years of service. He holds an Associate in Arts from Lake Michigan College and a Bachelors of Theology from Conroe College, Conroe Texas. He serves as the Financial Secretary of the Southwestern Michigan Ministerial Alliance, the fourth Vice President of the Twin City Branch of the NAACP, and the First Vice President of the Union Missionary Baptist District Association. Rev. Childs volunteers on the Foundation's Nurturing Our Children Committee and has been a member in good standing for many years. He is married and has four daughters.



New Trustees: Jane Marohn, Rev. James Childs, Brenda Layne (l to r)

Brenda Layne is an Account Manager at The Radio Stations of Michigan's Great Southwest, where she has been employed since 1981. Brenda also hosts a weekday morning community affairs talk program, "In the Spotlight," on WSJM. Brenda serves on boards of the Lake Michigan College Alumni Association, the Planned Parenthood Council, and the Home, Garden and Leisure Show. She chairs the American Heart Association's Berrien County Heart

Walk and The Service Connection service club. A long term member, she serves on the Foundation's Building the Spirit of Community and Fund Development Committees and Co-Chairs the 100 Women Strong Committee. Brenda lives in Benton Harbor with her husband and son.

Jane Marohn was born and educated in Toledo, Ohio. She relocated to St. Joseph in 1964. She received a Bachelors of Education degree from the University of Toledo and taught school in Toledo and Stevensville. She has been active in school, church, and community activities for over 35 years. Currently she serves on the Lakeland Health Foundation Board and is Corresponding Secretary of the Lakeland Medical Center Auxiliary. She presently serves on the Foundation's Nurturing Our Children Committee and is a long-time member. She is married and has three married children and three grandchildren.

"We are very pleased to have these three outstanding community volunteers join our Board," said President B. David Allen, "Their perspectives and insights regarding our community will be very valuable to our work".

The Berrien Community Foundation was founded by William Vawter and other local leaders in 1952. Its mission is to build permanent endowments and provide a broad range of flexible and cost-effective donor services; make grants to support a broad range of projects and programs that address community needs, with a focus on building a spirit of community, nurturing children, and youth leadership and development; invest and manage endowment funds prudently and professionally; and serve as a leader, catalyst, and resource to educate donors, professional advisors, and the community about the importance of philanthropy and the means to accomplish it.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, Executive Director, at 269-983-3304 or bcf@qtm.net.

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Celebrating Partnerships and the Golden Acorn and Planned Giving Education Programs

The Berrien Community Foundation and the United Way of Southwest Michigan celebrated philanthropy by honoring 170 supporters and recognizing several community partnerships on September 23, 2003 at the Mendel Center, Benton Harbor. The United Way kicked off its campaign at this event, while the Foundation announced exciting changes in its Golden Acorn Program and the Planned Giving Education Program.

"Often community foundations and United Ways collaborate, jointly addressing the needs of their communities, while fulfilling their unique missions", stated Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation executive director, during the event, "We are fortunate here in Berrien County to have such a collaboration, along with strong partnerships with the Council for World Class Communities, Cornerstone Alliance, the Coalition of Funders [Berrien Community Foundation, United Way, and Tiscornia, Upton, Whirlpool Foundations], and the Lakeland Health Foundation, just to name a few. Together we can enhance the quality of life here in the Great Southwest".

"We're very excited about the changes in the Golden Acorn Awards program. This is a great opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals in many fields," said David Allen, Berrien Community Foundation Board of Trustees President, when announcing these changes.

Established in 1995, the Golden Acorn Awards program has traditionally recognized outstanding Berrien County teachers. Starting in 2004, this program will be expanded to include

outstanding individuals in the areas of building spirit of community, nurturing our children, and youth leadership. The first awards will be given in fall of 2004.

“We’re looking forward to yet another partnership with the United Way through our joint planned giving education program”, stated Dr. Nanette Keiser. Over the next year, the Berrien Community Foundation and the United Way will collaborate with at least five nonprofit organizations in Berrien County that want to participate in an organized planned giving effort. A series of how-to seminars and tools will be developed for these organizations as they work with their donors. As it becomes feasible, this program will be expanded to include additional nonprofit organizations and partners.

For more information about either program, please contact the Berrien Community Foundation at 269-983-3304 or bcf@qtm.net.