

## **Berrien Community Foundation Awarding over \$64,000 in Scholarships**

The Berrien Community Foundation will provide over \$64,000 in new college scholarships and \$34,000 in renewals to Berrien County students in the 2005-06 school year. The scholarships were celebrated at a recent reception for donors and scholars.

“Wonderful donors are providing these very special gifts of education to our young people through these scholarships,” said Berrien Community Foundation President Dr. Nanette Keiser. “The very best of our youth are able to make their dreams a reality through these scholarships.”



**Lawrence Jackson, Brianna Clabin (front row, r to l), Jacorey Broyles, & Brandi Robinson (back row, r to l) celebrate their scholarships with family and friends**

Following is a list of scholarships and recipients honored at the reception.

**Jean A. Barrick Scholarship:** This scholarship is given in loving memory of Jean A. Barrick, who passed in May 1997 of cancer. Her values of compassion to people, honesty, hard work, and high achievement were instilled in her children as well as others. Her family believes she would want to continue her contribution via moving forward a Coloma High School student's higher education. Recipient: ***Stephanie Halley***

**Edna Bender Scholarship:** Established in 2000, this scholarship supports Berrien Springs High School students pursuing careers in business. Mrs. Bender, a long-time business teacher at Berrien Springs High School, purchased a share of AT&T stock in 1956 as a lesson for the students. Through her years of teaching she purchased a total of 200 shares of stock. The stocks' growth allowed for this wonderful scholarship. Recipient: ***Jason Mach***

**Boothby Family Scholarship:** This scholarship was established by members of the Boothby Family, many who graduated from or are attending the Benton Harbor or Lake Michigan Catholic High Schools. One scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from each school. Recipients: ***Andrea Hanley, Brandi Robinson***

**Drews Scholar:** In honor of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Drews' leadership, persistence, and positive reinforcement given to their children, the Drews Scholar Fund was established in 2004 by David and Lisa Drews. This scholarship is available to Lakeshore High School graduating seniors planning to attend a prestigious college/university and who demonstrate the highest level of personal expectations in their college and professional careers. This scholarship is renewable for 4 years, making a major impact on the students' lives. Recipient: *Dana Malone*

**Dunn Scholarship:** Established by Jeanne and Eddie R. Dunn, this program provides scholarships to part-time or full-time undergraduate or graduate students meeting the challenges of financing their educations. Preference is given to women in transition. This scholarship can be used at Andrews University, Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, or Western Michigan University in Berrien County. Recipient: *Vanessa Pinnix*

**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. Recipients: *Anna Cooper, Patrick McGough*

**The Heart of Cook Scholarship Program:** Established in 2003, this scholarship is to encourage the high school students in Berrien County to explore and excel in the areas of engineering, math, science, and other technical disciplines, and to provide scholarship support for pursuing these technical goals. This scholarship is renewable for 4 years, making a major impact on the students' lives. Recipients: *Robert Cinninger, Lawrence Jackson, Patrick McGough, Brandi Robinson, Nathan Scowcroft, Thomas Theisen*

**The Jelinek Leadership Scholarship:** State Senator Ron Jelinek took a controversial pay raise and gave it to our communities. A total of six scholarships were awarded through this annual gift provided by Ron and his wife, Diane, to students in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. The students were selected based upon their leadership activities. Recipients: *Wyatt Boothby-Shoemaker, Benjamin Brown, Brianna Clabin, Greta Koebel, Gabriel Ramirez, Rebecca Stambek*

**Leonard & Marion Krall Family Memorial Scholarship:** In its fourth 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: *Britani Spencer*

**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: *Anna Cooper, Stacey Evans, Sarah Sonnenberg, Kayla Wilkinson*

**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: *Jessica Godell, Lindsey Mastis*

**Hugh and Lucy Mizelle Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship is in loving memory of Hugh and Lucy Mizelle. St. Joseph City Manager Frank Walsh, and his wife, Shar, established this program in loving memory of his maternal grandparents. Candidates are reviewed on their ability to fund their own educations, community involvement, and records of service at the St. Joseph Schools. Recipients: *Kristen Beidler, Courtney Brown, Erinn Schreiner-Puskala, Julia Sendor*

**Carol A. Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship:** This scholarship awards students involved in TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), 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. Recipient: *Matthew Digirolamo*

**Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship:** The Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial 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 lives of the student recipients. Recipient: *Caylin Boswell*

**Judith E. Phillipi Scholarship:** Kim Phillipi established this scholarship in honor of her sister, Judith Phillipi, for her dedication and commitment she demonstrated to the Watervliet community, Watervliet Public Schools, and thousands of students she's helped over the last 33 years. Recipient: *Eric Odom*



*Judith Phillipi shares what the scholarship program established by her sister, Kim, means to her at the Celebration*

**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 his/her play. Recipient: *Gabriel Ramirez*

**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 Berrien Springs High School in 2005. Recipient: **Jeremy Eddie**

**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 via scholarships. Recipient: Bryce Hartley

**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 two scholarships through the Berrien Community Foundation. Roselle and Terry wanted to honor her and others at Watervliet High School via this scholarship program. Recipient: **Gabriel Ramirez**

**Welch Family Scholarship:** Established in 2004 by Fred and Sandy Welch, this program provides scholarships to graduating seniors from Lakeshore and Benton Harbor high schools facing the challenges of financing their educations and who have been accepted in engineering, math, science or other technical degree programs. Preference is given to students entering the University of Michigan. **Jacorey Broyles, Kamika Lucas, Amy Rydleski, Shelby Stieb**

**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 Scholarship is awarded to a graduating Berrien Springs High School Senior who demonstrates leadership and a commitment to the community through volunteerism. **Jesse Carrington**

For more information on the Berrien Community Foundation, please call 269-983-3486 or visit [www.berriencommunity.org](http://www.berriencommunity.org).

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## **TEAM Makes a Difference**

Teens helping teens and our communities—that's what Berrien Community Foundation's TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds) does best via its grantmaking and service projects.

"TEAM has taught me what philanthropy is really about, and I know that I will continue to share my talents, knowledge, and time with those around me because of the impact that grantmaking and TEAM had on my life," shared Monica Sendor, recent TEAM alumni.

In 1989, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided funding to support a vision of youth empowerment and grantmaking through the Michigan Community Foundation's Youth Project (MCFYP). The Berrien Community Foundation received part of this funding to start an endowment to benefit youth-serving organizations in Berrien County. Since that time TEAM has awarded over \$800,000.00 in grants and participated in many service projects to enhance the quality of life for youth today and into the future.

TEAM's mission is to involve youth in a philanthropic process that will develop their life-long values and skills of generosity, leadership, and caring—leading to stronger and more caring communities. This youth advisory committee is made up of individuals from 14 to 18 years old from all Berrien County schools who desire to address urgent community needs of youth.

TEAM's grants focus on development of positive youth decision-making skills, positive entertainment for youth, drug abuse prevention/awareness, and teen sex/pregnancy prevention. Berrien County youth-oriented organizations impacted by TEAM grants include: Five Pines Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor, the Council for World Class Communities, Citadel Dance Center, Lakeshore Public Schools (Michigan's WWII Band), Planned Parenthood, Readiness Center, LINK Crisis Intervention Center, the Salvation Army, Lory's Place, I'm Saving Myself, and the Children's Music Workshop.

In addition to grantmaking, TEAM members are very active in various community service projects. During the holidays, they assist with a fun day of activities for children in foster care and other similar programs and often provide gifts for families in need. For the last two years, TEAM has collaborated with the Gateway Community Foundation's youth advisory committee to provide scholarships and awards and jointly select outstanding youth for the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan's annual celebration.

"TEAM allowed me to get to know students from different towns and different perspectives," shared Lindsey Wilson, TEAM alumni, "Interacting with other members of TEAM has broadened my perspective of what the word 'community' means."

Most recently, several TEAM members assisted with a Jimmy Carter Work Project house as part of the Foundation's grant to the Rotary Centennial Project house on Hull Street. They sponsored and served breakfast and also assisted with landscaping and clean up efforts.



**Left to Right, TEAM members Patrick Kading, Steph Smiy, Megan Boothby, Matt Digirolamo, Andy Rutebuka, Dushime Gashugi, and Program Director Anne Mc Causland lend a hand to the Jimmy Carter Work Project/Rotary Centennial house project.**

"I've never seen that many people come together on one project for one family," stated Matt Digirolamo, TEAM Co-Chair, "It was fun to see people helping out each other, and I'm glad TEAM could be a part of this."

Present TEAM members include: Megan Boothby, Co Vice Chair; Ashley Christiano, Co-Chair; Matt Digirolamo, Co-Chair; Victoria Frosini, Co Vice Chair;

Dushime Gashugi; Samantha Gunter; Patrick Kading; Blair Laing; Destiny Perry; Alex Petlick; Linnea Petzke; Megan Polfus; Andy Rutebuka; and Steph Smiy. Adult advisors are Carol Oehlhaffen and Anne Mc Causland, BCF Program Director.

TEAM's goal is to have members from every school district in Berrien County. Youth interested in joining TEAM may contact Anne Mc Causland, Program Director, at 983-3304, ext. 2.

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, like TEAM's fund, is used to make grants to charitable agencies and institutions serving the residents of Berrien County and elsewhere. For more information about giving through the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net) or visit [www.berriencommunity.org](http://www.berriencommunity.org).

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## **Berrien Springs Community Library Establishes Endowment**

The Berrien Springs Community Library recently established an endowment fund at the Berrien Community Foundation.

The Library has been working diligently for over six years to build the endowment and recently transferred these proceeds to the Foundation to start the fund. Called the Berrien Springs Community Library Endowment Fund, it is intended to ensure the Library's ability to achieve its goals and purposes for the benefit of Berrien Springs and Oronoko Township residents long into the future. This also includes maintaining and enhancing its services and collections. The Berrien Springs Community Library's collection of 55,000 items is made up of books, magazines, audio books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and other materials. In addition, the Library houses the [Berrien County Genealogical Society](#) collection. The Library also sponsors story times, author talks, book clubs, crafts, and many other events for the entertainment, enlightenment, and cultural enrichment of the communities.

"We're excited about partnering with the Berrien Community Foundation," said Terri Calkins, Library Board President. "The Foundation will provide professional management and investment services, freeing us up to focus on our goals. Donors making contributions directly to the fund at the Foundation will have the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit available,

in addition to the regular tax deduction for such contributions."



**Board President Terri Calkins (l) presents Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation, with a check to establish the Berrien Springs Community Library Endowment Fund.**

Back in 1999, initial donors to this effort were Thomas and Doris Gill who gave in memory of Pauline Gill, Thomas' mother and a former Berrien Springs Community Library librarian. That gift was matched by Gregory and Dianne Hill and Doris Northrop, a longtime Library employee. Mr. Hill was the President of the Friends of the Library. Over the past few years this fund has grown as a result of memorial and Library patron gifts and yearly contributions from the Friends of the Library and the Library Board.

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 like the Library's, gifts, bequests, and other contributions that form permanent endowments. The income of these endowments is used to make grants to nonprofits, like the Library, that serve the residents of Berrien County.

Gifts to the Library's endowment fund may be mailed to the Berrien Community Foundation, 2900 S. State St., Suite 2E, St. Joseph, MI 49085. For more information about this fund or how to donate to it, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net).

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## **The Berrien Community Foundation Appoints New Members**

The Board of Trustees of the Berrien Community Foundation recently appointed 26 new members and 2 honorary members: *Rich Barnes, Harold Borlik, David Brockway, Honorable Al Butzbaugh, Lauri Davis, Jeff Dorn, Nora Duffy, Tom Filstrup, Karen Gear, Charles Jespersen, Robert Judd, Dr. Gyl Kasewurm, Larry Merritt, Don Mitchell, Sam Monte, Pat Moody, Dr. Desmond Murray, Jeff Noel, Carol Oehlhaffen, Paul Oselka, Jr., Dean Ray, Bill Schalk, Leo Soorus, Robert Starks, David Whitwam, and Janet Zielke*. Additionally, *John and Dede Howard were named honorary members*. With these additions, there are 85 members of the Foundation.

These new appointments by the Foundation's Board of Trustees are in recognition of the time, resources, and energies these 28 individuals contribute to the greater Berrien County community. Members act as ambassadors for the Foundation, are the critical core of its volunteer base, elect the Board of Trustees, and generally support the Foundation's work.

"We are very honored to have these 28 outstanding community volunteers join us as members," said President 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, at 269-983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net).

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## **Berrien Community Foundation Grants \$48,000**

The Berrien Community Foundation recently awarded \$48,000 in grants to Berrien County non-profit organizations. Grants focused on the areas of building spirit of community/arts & culture, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, and general support.

“These grants represent a wide range of much-needed programming from assisting a new radio station in Harbor Country to a summer youth beautification pride project in Benton Harbor.” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation president. “It is very important that the Foundation continually supports the nonprofit organizations in Berrien County as they serve their various stakeholders,”

**Building the spirit of community/arts & culture** grants focus on developing and planning for our communities, encouraging community cohesiveness via arts and cultural events, promoting various activities that encourage diversity and inclusion, and promoting access to services and information. Grants were made to the Genesis Outreach Development Kids Discovery Clubhouse (\$4,000), Harbor Arts Harbor Country Radio Project (\$3,500), and the Montessori House of Children Seeds of Tolerance (\$1,500).

**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. Harbor Harvest Urban Ministries received \$3,700 for its Summer Youth Beautification Pride Project, and Milestones of Southwest Michigan received \$2,000 for its Acting Out program while the Region IV Area Agency on Aging received \$4,000 for its Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Relatives as Parents Program. The Samaritan Counseling Center of Southwestern Michigan's Parenting with Love and Logic received \$1,300 and the Women's Community Association received \$3,000 for a child care worker accreditation program.

**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 Child and Family Services/LINK's educational services (\$10,000) and the Readiness Center's Teen Mentor Work Recreation Project (\$5,000).

**General** grants were also made to the Berrien County Shrine Club for an enrichment field trip for special needs children (\$4,000) and the Sarett Nature Center for its Project Digital (\$6,000).

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elsewhere and to provide scholarships. For more information about giving through the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net) or visit [www.berriencommunity.org](http://www.berriencommunity.org).

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### **Judith E. Phillip Scholarship for Watervliet High School Established**

The Berrien Community Foundation announced that the Judith E. Phillip Scholarship Fund was recently established by Kim Phillipi. Starting in 2005, one \$3,000 nonrenewable scholarship will be awarded each year to a Watervliet High School graduating senior.

“I wanted a way to honor my sister, Judith, for her dedication and commitment she demonstrated to the Watervliet community, Watervliet Public School System, and the thousands of students she's helped over the last 33 years,” shared Kim Phillipi, “A scholarship for Watervliet High School students seemed a very fitting tribute.”

"I was very touched by my sister's gift," said Judith Phillipi, "This scholarship is a means for me to stay connected with the school district I love, and because of my sister's gift, have a lasting impact on students in their college years."



**Kim Phillipi (r) honored her sister, Judith (l), by establishing the Judith E. Phillipi Scholarship**

Additional criteria for the scholarship include: 2.5 or above GPA, involvement in volunteer/community activities, financial need, and for use at a vocational technical/institute school (e.g., cosmetology school) or a college/university of choice anywhere for tuition, books, fees, and other costs, but not for room and board.

The application and additional information about the Judith E. Phillip Scholarship will be available on the Berrien Community Foundation's web site ([www.berriencommunity.org](http://www.berriencommunity.org), Scholarship page) or through the Watervliet High School counseling office in early 2005. For more information about the Berrien Community Foundation's charitable work and scholarship fund administration, please call 983-3486.

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**The Berrien Community Foundation Appoints  
New Trustees and Officers for 2004-2005**

Hillary Bubb, Harbor Country, and Tim Passaro, St. Joseph, recently joined the Berrien Community Foundation as Board Trustees. Stephen Sizer, was also named an Honorary Trustees for his 12 years of service on the Board, including as Secretary and a member of the Allocation and Fund Development committees. The Board of Trustees also recently elected its officers for 2004-2005—David Allen (Coloma), Chair; Joanne Sims (Lakeside), Vice Chair; Sharon Vargo (Benton Harbor), Treasurer; and Greg Vaughn (Benton Harbor), Secretary.



Newly elected Trustee Hillary Bubb was first introduced to the Foundation through her husband, Larry, who served on the Board for 12 years. Her efforts for the Foundation include being an ambassador for the Foundation in the Harbor Country where she lives and helping to establish the Larry G. Bubb Harbor Country Endowment Fund. She serves on the Building Spirit of Community and Nominating committees.



Trustee Tim Passaro has been practicing as a CPA and attorney in St. Joseph since 1977, most recently with Passaro & Kahne. Prior to that he was a tax manager in a Big 8 CPA firm. His business and law degrees are from the University of Notre Dame. Tim is a member of many professional organizations and has served as president of the Southwestern Michigan Estate Planning Council and treasurer of the Notre Dame Estate Planning Institute.

“We are very pleased to have these two outstanding community volunteers join our Board,” said Board Chair 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 funds, provide a broad range of flexible donor services, provide grants to support a broad range of projects and programs for our communities, and serve as a facilitative leader.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, at 269-983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net).

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**Lakeside Thirteen Key to Chikaming Open Lands Endowment**

Several Lakeside Thirteen, Inc. members were instrumental in helping the Chikaming Open Lands establish an endowment fund at the Berrien Community Foundation.

In the summer of 1981, the Lakeside Thirteen was formed to preserve the character and ambiance of the Village of Lakeside via the purchase of the Plaza, a building in downtown Lakeside. Over its 23 year existence, this group of focused women achieved this goal, fostered many friendships, and assisted many charitable endeavors, including the Lakeside Cemetery and the Chikaming Open Lands.

The investment in the building was also profitable. Several tenants later, the group decided it was time to sell the building and then dissolve the Lakeside Thirteen. Many members donated their proceeds from their stock in the corporation to the Chikaming Open Lands, which in turn placed them in its endowment recently established at the Berrien Community Foundation.



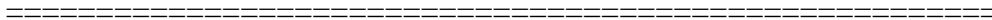
**Several members of the Lakeside Thirteen helped establish the Chikaming Open Lands Endowment**

“This endowment helps us to build for the long term, which would not have been possible without the Lakeside Thirteen's initial gifts,” said Peter Van Nice, Chikaming Open Lands Board President, “The Berrien Community Foundation will provide professional management and investment services. 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. We are then free to focus on our mission.”

Since 2000, the Chikaming Open Lands has sought to preserve open space and the diverse character of Harbor Country and environs. As a nonprofit land trust, Chikaming Open Lands preserves open space by acquiring land and conservation easements through donation or purchase. Chikaming Open Lands fosters an appreciation of the local environment through education and involvement of the community in the issues and techniques of land preservation and habitat restoration.

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 mainly permanent endowments. The income of these endowments is used to make grants to nonprofits, like Chikaming Open Lands, that serve the residents of Berrien County.

Gifts to the Chikaming Open Land's endowment may be mailed to the Berrien Community Foundation, 2900 S. State St., Suite 2E, St. Joseph, MI 49085. For more information about this fund or how to donate to it, call Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, at 983-3486 or email her at [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net).



## **Berrien Community Foundation Announces \$10,000 “Drews Scholar” Program for Lakeshore High School**

The Berrien Community Foundation announced that the Drews Scholar Fund was recently established by David and Lisa Drews to honor Al and Virginia Drews. Starting in 2005, one 4-year, \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded each year to a Lakeshore High School graduating senior planning to attend a prestigious in or out of state college/university who demonstrates the highest level of personal expectations in his/her college and professional career.



**David Drews**

“We decided to honor my father and mother for all that they've done for my brothers and me,” David Drews said. “It was through their encouragement and support in pursuing a quality college education that my four brothers and I have been able to live out our dreams. We wanted a way to help others do the same, and this scholarship program, administered by the Berrien Community Foundation, was the perfect means to do it.”

Al and Virginia Drews often said, "You can be anything you want to be, if you put your mind to it". This philosophy was a basic tenet for looking toward the future around the Drews household. The five Drews siblings earned Bachelor's degrees, while three have also been awarded Master's degrees. Leveraging their educational foundations, Al and Virginia's sons have turned their aspirations into reality, each in their chosen field of endeavor. They have become professionals in the fields of sales, marketing, civil engineering, and finance.

The Drews and their five sons epitomize the American Dream that can be attained with a college education. “It's simply amazing what opportunities have been created through education for my brothers and me,” David Drews stated, "A Kiwanis Club scholarship made it possible for me to complete my education at Michigan State University and was key to my present career successes. Now, it's time to 'pay back' those who have helped me by providing the same opportunity to graduating Lakeshore seniors and also honor my parents via this scholarship program."

The application and additional information about the Drews Scholar scholarship will be available on the Berrien Community Foundation's web site ([www.berriencommunity.org](http://www.berriencommunity.org), Scholarship page) or through the Lakeshore High School counseling office in early 2005. For more information about the Berrien Community Foundation's charitable work, please call 983-3486.

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## **Berrien Community Foundation Honors Golden Acorn Community Award Recipients and Grantees**

The Berrien Community Foundation recently honored two educators, two volunteers, and a group of volunteers—Gary Campbell, JoAnn Bailey, Dr. Desmond Murray, Lori Von Koenig, and the Race Relations Council of Southwest Michigan—at its 2004 Golden Acorn Community Awards held at the Howard Performing Arts Center in Berrien Springs on November 18. The Foundation also acknowledged its 2004 grantees during this program.

"These educators and volunteers exemplify community service in our County," said Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, Berrien Community Foundation. "They are truly role models for us all, and we are very proud to honor their work!"

The Golden Acorn Awards were started by the Foundation in the mid 1990s as a way to honor teachers. In 2003, the awards were expanded to include the Foundation's other grant focus areas (building spirit of community, nurturing our children, and encouraging youth development and leadership) and renamed the Golden Acorn Community Awards. These Awards honor and celebrate community volunteers and educators for their activities in Berrien County. The Foundation will provide a \$1,000 grant to a qualifying nonprofit organization in Berrien County designated by each award recipient.

Individuals, couples, families, and groups of volunteers or educators qualified for nomination. Award recipients have excelled in volunteer or job-related activities (educators only) in the focus areas of the Foundation and have a long-standing history of such activities in Berrien County. Nominations were received by June 1, 2004, reviewed by a committee of Foundation volunteers in August, and approved by the Foundation's Board in September.



**Angelique Joseph-Burnside--Race Relations Council (l), Gary Campbell,  
JoAnn Bailey, Dr. Desmond Murray, Lori Von Koenig (r)**

**Gary Campbell and JoAnn Bailey each received a Marilyn Schanze Education Award.** This award, named after the former Trustee and Honorary Trustee who started the Golden Acorn program, acknowledges educators who are full-time or retired within one year of the nomination and can include certified teachers or administrators who employ innovative teaching or management methods; promote community involvement, philanthropy, and

volunteerism in their students; build community around their school districts and beyond; and/or cultivate a positive understanding of diversity and inclusiveness.

Retiring in June 2003 as Superintendent of Lakeshore Public Schools, **Gary R. Campbell** began his education career in 1969 as a French/Math Teacher at the Edwardsburg Public Schools. He served as Business Manager from 1972 until 1980. Beginning in 1980, Gary served the Lakeshore School community as Assistant Superintendent (1980-1992) and Superintendent (1992-2003). During the 2003-2004 school year, he served as the Interim Superintendent for the Brandywine Public Schools. During his Lakeshore tenure, he established a tradition in excellence that celebrated community involvement and student success. Gary has been an active member of the Lakeshore Rotary Club, Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Council for World Class Communities, Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning, and the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Berrien County Historical Association. Gary earned a Bachelor's Degree (1967), Master's Degree (1972), and an Ed. S. degree (1988) from Western Michigan University. He completed his Juris Doctorate from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan in 1999. He was admitted to the practice of law as a member of the State Bar of Michigan in November 1999. Gary lives in Baroda, Michigan. He and his wife, Karen, have two adult sons, Timothy and David.

**JoAnn Bailey** is President/CEO of the WorkForce Skills Development Center, a nonprofit that is dedicated to the positive educational, social, and economic outcomes of youth, adults, and families. JoAnn brings over 30 years of experience in program design, development, and implementation of educational and workforce training programs. JoAnn is a strong believer that all children and adults have the capacity to learn—learning is their window, door, and opportunity for better lives. Her beliefs are exemplified in her work, which began back to 1972 when she implemented the first jobs program in Bloomington, Indiana. In 1994, she had the opportunity to consult with Cornerstone Alliance in the area of workforce development. She opened what is now called the WorkForce Skills Development Center in June 1995. This Center continues to offer programming for youth and adults in the Benton Harbor area—over 1,300 adults and 250 youth have benefited from its programming. Many have gone on to college and have received degrees; others have found jobs with livable wages. For the past two years, JoAnn has been working with the Southwestern Michigan Alternative Learning Collaborative (SMALC) and the Benton Harbor Area Schools in providing alternative education programming for students who have difficulty succeeding in traditional classroom settings. JoAnn is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds a Bachelor's degree in management with a concentration in training and development. JoAnn has co-authored nine articles—three of which have been published in national and international journals. She has presented in France on workforce and educational issues as they impact the global economy. JoAnn is a certified Life Skills educator. She is also a member of the World Association of Case Method Research and Application (WACRA) and Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). JoAnn was a 2003 WCA Tribute to Women award recipient and past member of the Benton Harbor Lions Club. She is married with two adult children.

The Nurturing Our Children Award recognized the **Race Relations Council of Southwest Michigan** as a group of volunteers who nurture our children via their activities that encourage parent/caregiver support & education; positive activities for families & children; community support & involvement; mentoring; and/or drug abuse/prevention & awareness. The Council was established in February 1998. The initial group of seven founders (Dr. Ron Field, Ken Harper, Chuck Jager, Jeff Noel, Deb Panozzo, James Turner, and David Walker) quickly expanded to more than 50 concerned individuals. The work of the Race Relations Council was structured around four committees that expanded to five standing committees: Education, Employment, Housing, Criminal Justice, and Social Attitudes and Behavior. Each committee focuses on its particular area of concern, attempting to clarify the opportunities and to develop

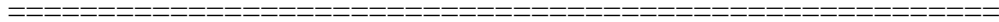
and implement action plans. The Race Relations Council, a diverse group of volunteers from Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, and neighboring communities, are dedicated to promoting racial equality, facilitating interracial understanding, and fostering mutual respect among individuals of all racial/ethnic groups. Examples of Race Relations projects include: All God's Children Community Choir; Mortgage Lending Studies; Improvement loans in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph; Survey of Racial Attitudes and Behaviors in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor; and Public Defender work. Each year, volunteers from the Council plan and organize an annual Community Celebration and Awards Program. At this event, the Council honors those whose efforts to provide services, combat racism, build bridges, and increase understanding have had a significant impact on life in Southwest Michigan. Proceeds from this event sponsor two LMC scholarships—The Race Relations Council Emerging Leaders and the Race Relations Council Service Award Scholarships

**Dr. Desmond Murray** was the recipient of the Youth Leadership and Volunteerism Award. He is a volunteer who encourages or supports, via his activities, youth leadership and volunteerism activities focused on positive youth development (e.g., building 40 assets), positive decision-making skills; positive activities for youth; and/or positive peer pressure. Desmond was born on the Caribbean island of Trinidad to Pastor Hartwell Murray and Mrs. Auldith Murray. He is the first-born of their five children. Twenty-three years ago, Desmond left his high school teaching position in Tobago and arrived at Andrews University in Berrien Springs to begin a new phase in pursuit of his dreams. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Andrews University, a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wayne State University, and was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at Harvard University. He has been a chemistry professor at Andrews University since 1995. Dr. Desmond Murray is inspired by his parents' exemplary lives of service. His service efforts are in the fields of education, science, and community development. For the last nine years, much of his outreach work has been focused on Benton Harbor. Projects include: Flats Economic and Community Development (President)—Adopt-A-School initiative, "*Remembering the Flats*"; *Future Leaders Journaling Our Past*; *Benton Harbor Socrates Project*—math, science tutoring; and the *Benton Harbor Science Initiative*, among others. In addition, Dr. Murray has contributed greatly to the success of the *Benton Spirit* community newspaper in several roles, including as editor and author of the weekly column, *Urban Renewal*. His leadership has enabled this publication to be a true community development tool in its efforts of informing, enhancing, showcasing, promoting, and educating Benton Harbor and Southwest Michigan. In a town that has grown accustomed, if not weary, of bad news, Murray and the *Benton Spirit* believe in the transforming power of good news.

Larry Bubb served on the Foundation's Board for 12 years and was Chair for 3 terms (94-97). He built a spirit of community in Berrien County, especially in the Harbor Country. The Larry Bubb Spirit of Community Award honors him by recognizing **Lori Von Koenig**, a volunteer who builds a positive spirit in her communities via her activities that encourage community cohesiveness and cultural inclusiveness. Lori Von Koenig is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BA in Music Education and a MA in Counseling and Educational Psychology. She has taught instrumental music at Lakeshore Public Schools for the past 18 years. Before coming to Lakeshore, Lori taught two years at Forest Hills Public Schools in Grand Rapids and one semester as a permanent sub for East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Lori was honored as the Band Director of the Year in 1992 by Lake Michigan College and was selected as their Outstanding Alumni recipient in 1994. In 1995 she was selected as the Lakeshore Teacher of the Year. She has been the recipient of the MSBOA District 6 "Teacher of the Year" three times. She was given the U.S. Presidential Scholars "Teacher Recognition Award" in 2000 by the U.S. Department of Education and was invited to the White House for the award ceremony of the U.S. Presidential Scholars by President Bill Clinton. In 2003 she received the "R. James Johnson Distinguished Educator Award" from Lakeshore Public Schools. At Lakeshore, she is the Director of Bands and the Chair of the Fine Arts Department. She is also the conductor of the

Concert and Symphonic Bands, the Jazz Ensemble, and the 225 member Lancer Marching Band. Lori team teaches the beginning band with associate directors Phil and Cindy Huff. Under her leadership the Lakeshore Bands have received consistent 1st division ratings at M.S.B.O.A. Festivals for the past 18 years. The Symphonic Band was one of two bands invited to perform at Western Michigan University in 1999 at the Conference on Wind and Percussion Music. The Marching Band was the M.C.B.A. Flight 3 State Champions in 2002 and 2003. The band also performed in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day 2004 as part of the dedication of the World War II Memorial, the only band in Michigan to be invited. She was instrumental in bringing her band members together with WWII veterans, so that her students would have a better understanding of those they were honoring, and bringing their stories to our communities. She is married to Edward Von Koenig, and they have two children.

The Berrien Community Foundation was established by William Vawter and other caring local leaders in 1952. Its mission is to build permanent endowment and other funds, provide a broad range of flexible and cost-effective donor services, provide grants to support that address community needs, and serve as a facilitative leader, catalyst, and resource. For more information about the Foundation, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, at 269-983-3486 or nkeiser@qtm.net.



## **Berrien Community Foundation Grants Over \$105,000**

The Berrien Community Foundation will distribute \$105,000 in grants to Berrien County nonprofit organizations by year end from its fall grant cycle. Grants will be provided in the areas of building spirit of community, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, healthful living, and Golden Acorn mini grants, among others.

"We are thrilled that the three Rotaries sponsoring a 2005 Jimmy Carter Work Project house as their **Centennial Project** were willing to have the Foundation participate in this wonderful collaboration as another sponsor," said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Foundation President and Executive Director. "Besides providing a \$10,000 grant, we look forward to serving as volunteers with the Rotarians from the Benton Harbor, Lakeshore, and St. Joseph Clubs whenever possible."

**Building the spirit of community** grants focus on developing and planning for our communities, encouraging community cohesiveness via arts and cultural events, promoting various activities that encourage diversity and inclusion, and promoting access to services and information. Grants were made to the Berrien County and Ellis Island project (\$2,500), Fort Miami's Southwest Michigan Fruit Belt project (\$2,500), Lake Michigan College's Leadership Academy (\$1,500), and the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (\$2,900) for a financial literacy project.

**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. The Children's Music Workshop received \$2,000 for scholarships for its 2005 Spring production and Little Squirt received \$1,000. The Benton Harbor Summer Enrichment Program 2005 was also granted \$5,000.

**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 \$30,000 in grants, including support for the Teen Center/Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor (\$7,500) and the Citadel Dance Center (\$2,000). This group also recommended support of \$7,500 for Lory's Place and \$5,000 for the I'm Saving Myself Program.

WorkForce Skills Development (SMART Kids) received \$5,000, and the Eclipse Café of the Y2K Ministries received \$3,000.

The **Healthful Living Endowment** grants are for programs that create a healthier lifestyle for youth and seniors in Berrien County. Projects funded totaled \$32,600, including the Berrien County Smoking Cessation project (\$15,000), Children's Assessment Center (Berrien County Council for Children) (\$8,600), and the Parish Nurse Program (\$9,000), a collaboration of three churches and Lakeland Health Alliance.

Fifteen teachers across Berrien County received a total of \$5,800 in **Golden Acorn classroom mini grants**. Right Direction Outreach Ministries received \$2,500 for its Sky is the Limit Tutoring Program. The Art Angels (\$2,500) of the St. Joseph Art Association, the Salvation Army/Arts & Music (\$3,000), and the Twin Cities Organ Concert Series (\$1,500) also received funding.

“All these grants address a wide range of critical needs in our communities,” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation President/Executive Director. “It is critical that the Foundation support the nonprofit organizations as they serve their various stakeholders and Berrien County.”

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 and beyond. For more information about giving through the Berrien Community Foundation, contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President/Executive Director, at 983-3486 or [nkeiser@qtm.net](mailto:nkeiser@qtm.net).