

Berrien Community Foundation Awarding over \$138,000 in Scholarships

The Berrien Community Foundation will provide over \$80,000 in new college scholarships and \$58,000 in renewals to Berrien County students in the 2007-08 school year from its 25 scholarship programs. The scholarships were celebrated at a recent reception for 200 donors, scholars, and their guests.

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

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: Deanna Sandmann*

Bryce Boothby Family Scholarship: This scholarship was established by members of the Bryce 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: Nikia Davis (Benton Harbor), Alexandra Petlick (Lake Michigan Catholic)*

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: Kevin Klinke*

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. *Recipients (all Lake Michigan College): Alison Ikerd, Karen Marr, Shonda Warren, Zina Watkins*

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 an annual scholarship for a Lakeshore High School graduate. *Recipients: Andrew Conrad*

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: Nicole Clement*

(Watervliet), Daniel Geiger (Niles), Kevin Klinke (Lakeshore). Lauren Rajewski (Lakeshore), Andrea Vonk (St. Joseph), Brian Wieger (Brandywine)

Drs. 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 educations. Established in 1996, this scholarship has made college possible for so many students and has helped train future musicians and instructors. **Recipients:** *Alexandra Berndt (Northwestern University), Kelly Hay (Central Michigan University), Mary Elizabeth Huttlin (University of Minnesota), Kevin Keith (Eastern Michigan University), David Tenerelli (University of Michigan), Michael West (Michigan State University)*

Drs. 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. **Recipients:** *Megan Kerr, Daniel O'Hearn*

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 are selected based upon several criteria, including their leadership activities **Recipients:** *Andrew Cuthbert (Cass), Jacqueline Kenyon (Berrien), Kathryn Nevil (Berrien), Alissa Pitcher (Van Buren), Maranda Smith (Cass), Brianna Sonnenberg (Berrien)*

Jon Jollay Scholarship: In memory of Jon Jollay, this scholarship was established in 1988 to enhance the post secondary education of a Coloma High School graduate. The scholarship is given to a graduating student who shows excellence in citizenship, scholarship, and all around accomplishments. **2007 Recipient:** *Blake Davis*

Leonard & Marion Krall Family Memorial Scholarship: In its sixth year, this is a scholarship to a Watervliet High School graduate preferably 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:** *Thomas Rodgers*



Thomas Rodgers, Leonard & Marion Krall Memorial Scholarship recipient, describes his future plans and how the Krall Scholarship makes them possible at the recent Berrien Community Foundation Scholarship Celebration.

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. **Recipient:** *Michael Solak (Lakeshore)*

Carol A. Oehlhaffen Lake Michigan Catholic Scholar: This scholarship was established by Carol A. Oehlhaffen to honor deserving students at Lake Michigan Catholic. **2007 Recipient:** *Teresa Dudding*

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:** *Alexandra Petlick (Lake Michigan Catholic), Stephanie Smiy (St. Joseph High School)*

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:** *Joana Coffy*

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:** *Shawn Lynch*

The Arlene B. Porritt Memorial Scholarship for Curious Kids: This scholarship was established in loving memory of Arlene B. Porritt, who passed away in May 2005. Dedication to her family, community, friendships, and her commitment to higher education led to the formation of this living remembrance. Mrs. Porritt was an outstanding educator before retiring from the classroom to start her family. One of her favorite outings with her grandchildren was visiting Curious Kids' Museum. The Porritt Family, along with dear friends, established this scholarship to acknowledge and enrich the educational experiences of those St. Joseph High School students who volunteer and/or are employed at Curious Kids' Museum. **Recipient:** *Lisa Chen*

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, an attorney, 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 Bridgman High School in 2007. **Recipient:** *Patrick Kading*

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. **Recipients:** *Melissa Baughman, Raquel Hellenga*

Special Scholarships: Several special scholarships were provided by anonymous donors. **Recipients:** *Lakisha Favorite (Benton Harbor), Mary Isbrecht (Andrews University), Wanda Kaye Jenkins (Lake Michigan College), Heather Moyer (Lake Michigan College), Alicia Potter (Lake Michigan College), Zenaida Rivera (Lake Michigan College)*

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:** *Nicole Clement*

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. **Recipients:** *Bradley Anderson (Lakeshore), Teona Rolland (Benton Harbor), Derek Williams (Benton Harbor)*



Teona Rolland, Welch Family Scholarship Recipient, shares what this scholarship means to her at the recent Berrien Community Foundation reception

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. **Recipient: Michelle Rudlaff**

For more information on the Berrien Community Foundation and/or to support these programs, please call 269-983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.

TEAM Makes a Difference Through Service and Grants

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation's youth advisory committee, recently recommended a total of \$24,000 in grants. This included support for Child and Family Services of Southwestern Michigan's Homeless Youth Program (\$1,600), Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance's Teen Peer Education Program (\$4,000), the Readiness Center's Growing Up Healthy Program (\$7,600), the Salvation Army's music programs (\$1,000), Therapeutic Equestrian Center's riding programs (\$5,000), and the YMCA's Y-Arts and Education Project (\$4,800).

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

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.

"During my time with TEAM, I earned a newfound appreciation for what it takes to be an active, supportive member of the community. My experiences have taught me the meaning of volunteerism, and have inspired me to choose a career in an area that will enable me to 'pay-it-forward' for an entire lifetime," shared Stephanie Smiy, TEAM Co-Chair.

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 \$1 million+ in grants and participated in many service projects to enhance the quality of life for youth today and into the future.

"I have seen so much good come from just a few teenagers. I would have never realized that young people could shape a community in such a profound way," shared Patrick Kading, TEAM Co-Chair, "I have been moved by people's pride in their communities and their compassion for the people in it."

In addition to grantmaking, TEAM members are very active in community service projects. During the holidays each year, they assist with a fun day of activities for children in foster care and often provide gifts for families in need. For the last four years, TEAM has collaborated with the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation's youth advisory committees to provide scholarships and awards and jointly select outstanding youth for the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan's annual celebration. TEAM also assisted the Therapeutic Equestrian Center with several maintenance projects over the past 2 years and was involved in the 2005 Jimmy Carter Work Project.



Left to Right, Julia Diefenbach and Derrick Atkins review grant applications at a recent meeting.

Present TEAM members include: Derrick Atkins, Kyle Bartoszek, Chase Cundiff, Julia Diefenbach, Patrick Kading, Co-Chair, Alex Petlick, Co-Vice Chair, Linnea Petzke, Co-Vice Chair, Megan Polfus, Michael Smiy, Steph Smiy, Co-Chair, and Terence Theisen. Adult advisors are Carol Oehlhaffen, also a BCF member, and Anne Mc Causland, BCF Program Director.

Five TEAM members are graduating this year, so the Foundation is actively seeking additional TEAM members for the 2007-2008 year. TEAM's goal is to have members from every school district in Berrien County. **Youth interested in joining TEAM or those interested in recommending a youth may contact Anne Mc Causland, Program Director, at 983-3304, ext. 2. Activities resume in the fall.**

The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned individual could put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County and beyond. For more information about giving through the

Berrien Community Foundation to support the grants described here, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.

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GRANTS AWARDED TO AREA AGENCIES BY “THE HEART OF COOK”

“The Heart of Cook” grant recipients for 2007 were announced by Indiana Michigan Power’s Cook Nuclear Plant during a reception at the Curious Kids Museum on May 14. Grants totaling \$54,832 were provided to 38 area nonprofit organizations. More than 60 funding requests were received this year.

“The Heart of Cook” is a grant program targeted to assist educational, human services, and environmental projects and organizations in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to agencies and projects that have involvement or leadership by I & M employees.

“I have seen the various ways that this community supports Cook, and I am pleased we can in turn provide funding for these fine community organizations,” said Mano Nazar, senior vice president & chief nuclear officer. “Our employees are very committed, both at work and in many community organizations. These grants express our pride and appreciation for living and working in Michigan’s Great Southwest.”

“Word of *The Heart of Cook* grant program has really spread,” said Rick Tinkle, chairman of the employee review committee. “We had many more worthwhile requests than funds available once again this year, but we’re very excited to be able to help so many great programs.”

The Berrien Community Foundation administers the program for Cook. Grant applications for 2008 will be available next January by contacting the Berrien Community Foundation at www.berriencommunity.org.



Beth Germani (Heart of Cook) and Rick Tinkle (Heart of Cook Committee Chair)

**present the grant check to Mr. Lincoln (aka Richard Veit, Senior Vice Commander,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War).**

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, and its 2,650 employees serve more than 580,000 customers in Indiana and Michigan. It operates 3,595 MW of coal-fired generation in Indiana, 2,110 MW of nuclear generation in Michigan, and 22 MW of hydro generation in both states.

I&M is part of American Electric Power is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a nearly 39,000-mile network that includes more 765 kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP's transmission system directly or indirectly serves about 10 percent of the electricity demand in the Eastern Interconnection, the interconnected transmission system that covers 38 eastern and central U.S. states and eastern Canada, and approximately 11 percent of the electricity demand in ERCOT, the transmission system that covers much of Texas. AEP's utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP's headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio.

News releases and other information about I&M can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.indianamichiganpower.com>. For more information about the D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant, please visit <http://www.cookinfo.com>

**GRANTS FOR \$100 OR MORE AVAILABLE
FROM "THE HEART OF COOK"**

Grant applications for \$100 and above are again available from Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant. "The Heart of Cook" is a grant program administered by the Berrien Community Foundation targeted to assist with educational, human services, and environmental not-for-profit projects and organizations in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana.

"Cook employees volunteer thousands of hours to community organizations and events each year," said Mano Nazar, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. "'The Heart of Cook' grant program is just one more way we can express our pride and appreciation for living and working here and also support volunteerism among our employees."

The funding focus for "The Heart of Cook" grants program is educational projects, human services programs that support families, and environmental protection and preservation projects. The grant review committee gives special consideration to agencies and projects that have involvement or leadership by Cook employees. 501(c)(3) tax exempt or equivalent status is required.

“In 2006, we contributed \$53,000 to fund 32 not-for-profit programs and special projects in area schools, the arts, and community-based agencies,” said Rick Tinkle, chairman of the employee-driven review committee.

The deadline to apply is February 12, 2007 with awards to be announced in May. Grant applications may be obtained by visiting the Berrien Community Foundation's web site at www.berriencommunity.org. For additional information or questions about the applications, please call 269-983-3304, ext. 2.

Berrien Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

The Berrien Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2007 applications are available for its various scholarship programs. Generous donors make these programs possible.

Berrien County graduating high school seniors are encouraged to visit www.berriencommunity.org (Scholarship Page) for a complete list of available scholarships and to determine which programs may be applicable to them. Applications for many of the scholarships programs are available for downloading on this Web page. Berrien County high school counseling offices will receive a limited number of hard copies of these applications around February 1, so students may check there as well.

Students attending colleges and universities are also encouraged to visit the Foundation's Scholarship Page for applicable scholarship applications at this level.

Applications are due March 8, 2007. Decisions will be announced in early May.

Please contact Anne Mc Causland, Program Director, at 983-3304, ext. 2 or AnneMcCausland@BerrienCommunity.org with specific questions about the scholarship applications.

Bridgman Public Library Establishes Endowment

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

The Library provides materials and services that furnish opportunities for educational, informational, cultural and recreational enrichment to all the people of the communities served by the Library. The Library encourages children to develop an interest in reading and learning through its services for children and its service for parents and children together.

“We’re excited about partnering with the Berrien Community Foundation through this fund,” said Carla Norwood, 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.”

The Library was officially voted into the city millage in April 1966. The original site was in the current Rochefort's Ice Cream Shoppe with Marilyn Roth as first librarian. Within a few short years, the Library relocated to the Farmer's and Merchant Bank, currently the China Cafe. In the early 80's, space was again an issue, and a large fundraising campaign began. At the same

time the Friends of the Library was formed, and a grant was also received through the Library of Michigan Construction Act. Dr. and Mrs. Dale Smith, a local dentist and his wife, donated the property for the current Library site. Relocation to the new building occurred in 1984 with an addition and renovation completed in 2004.



Board Treasurer (r) Barbara Hall presents Berrien Community Foundation President Nanette Keiser (l) with a check to establish the Bridgman Public Library Endowment Fund

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

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, Foundation President, at 983-3486 or [NanetteKeiser@ BerrienCommunity.org](mailto:NanetteKeiser@BerrienCommunity.org) or visit www.BerrienCommunity.org.

Berrien Community Foundation Grants Over 143,000

The Berrien Community Foundation recently awarded over \$143,000+ in grants to Berrien County nonprofit organizations. Grants were provided in the areas of building spirit of community/arts & culture, nurturing our children, youth leadership and development, general support, healthful living, and Golden Acorn mini grants for classroom projects.

“Our grants are intended to support wide range programming in Berrien County from providing musicians in the County's classrooms to smoking cessation programs for seniors,” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation president. “It is very important that the Foundation funds these various organizations in Berrien County as they accomplish their missions.”

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/or promoting access to services and information. Grants totaling \$30,041 were made to the Berrien Artist Guild's Poetry Factory (\$2,000), Calling All Colors of Southwest Michigan's Middle School Program (\$5,000), Citadel Dance Center's Spring Concert (\$1,541), Council for World-Class Communities' Bridges to Digital Excellence (\$10,000), and New Territory Arts Association's Fired Up! (\$2,500). Additional grants were provided for the Southshore Concert Band's Annual Holiday Performance (\$1,000), St. Joseph Art Association/Krasl Art Center's Art Angels for CARES clients (\$6,500), and the U.S. Senior Soccer Division's Midwest Region Cups Final in Berrien County (\$1,500).

Nurturing our children grants total \$30,000 and encompass parent support and education, positive activities for families and children, community support and involvement, mentoring, and drug abuse/prevention and awareness. The Berrien County Council for Children's Assessment Center received \$7,000 as did the Capstone Family Center's Zero to Three program. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Berrien & Cass was awarded \$5,000 its Lunch Buddy Mentoring program and the Public Safety Education Program (Little Squirt-The Live Talking Fire Truck), \$1,000. Curious Kids' Museum received \$5,000 for its new water conversation exhibit as did Catholic Family Services for the Great Start for Berrien County Families.

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 \$34,000 in grants, including support for the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor's Teen Activity for the Keystone Club (\$5,000), Children's Music Workshop's Fall 2006 and Spring/Summer 2007 productions/workshops (\$2,000), and the Citizens for Progressive Change's Benton Harbor Youth-in-Government program (\$3,000). I'm Saving Myself's Abstinence Only Clubs (\$6,500), Lake Michigan Christian Center's U-Turn Café (\$4,000), New Buffalos Foursquare Church's Community Youth Center (\$8,000), and the READY Martial Arts Program (\$5,500) were also supported.



Patrick Kading (left), Linnea Petzke (c), and Steph Smiy (right), TEAM members, confer about several grant applications

General grants totaled \$27,000 and were made to the Berrien County Shrine Club (\$3,000) and Hospice at Home, Inc.'s Lory's Place Peer Group Support Program (\$6,000). The Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra's Musicians in the Schools program received \$10,000 and the YWCA's Educational Excellence for Child Development Caregivers program \$8,000.

The Healthful Living Endowment grants support programs that create a healthier lifestyle for youth and seniors in Berrien County. Projects funded totaled \$17,500, including the Berrien County Health Department's Smoking Cessation project (\$8,000) and the Region IV Area Agency on Aging's Senior Companion Program (\$9,500).

Nineteen teachers across Berrien County received a total of over \$5,100 in **Golden Acorn classroom mini grants**. Ranging from \$100-\$500 each, these grants enhance classroom activities throughout Berrien County.

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The Berrien Community Foundation Elects New Trustees and Officers

Gregory Vaughn and Sharon Vargo, both of Benton Harbor, were elected Board Trustees for their second six-year terms at the September 13 Annual Board Trustee & Members Meeting. **Patricia Forbes**, Stevensville, was also elected to her first six-year term, after completing a one year appointment.

The Board also elected its officers for 2006-2007—**Joanne Sims (Lakeside), Chair; Greg Vaughn (Benton Harbor), Vice Chair; Sharon Vargo (Benton Harbor), Treasurer; and Robert Gottlieb (St. Joseph), Secretary**. “We are very pleased to have Greg Vaughn, Sharon Vargo, and Pat Forbes, all outstanding community volunteers, continue to serve on our Board as Trustees,” said Board Chair Joanne Sims.



Joanne Sims, Greg Vaughn, Sharon Vargo, Robert Gottlieb (l to r)

Greg Vaughn, Board Vice Chair, serves as Vice President of Financial and Small Business Services at Cornerstone Alliance where he oversees a broad range of small business assistance and training programs (Women’s Business Center, the Microloan Program, the Renaissance Development Fund). Greg has more than 30 years of progressively responsible experience in business administration, business development, government administration, and economic development. Recognized by the US Small Business Administration in 1996 as Michigan’s Minority Small Business Advocate of the

Year, Greg continues to progress his passion for entrepreneurial development and his enthusiasm for community growth.

Sharon Vargo, Board Treasurer, joined Plante & Moran in 1976 and has more than 30 years of public accounting experience. She became an audit partner in 1986 and presently serves as managing partner of the St. Joseph office. Her other community involvement activities include the United Way of Southwest Michigan (Board), the Economic Club of Southwest Michigan (Treasurer), and Lakeshore Rotary.



Patricia Forbes

Patricia Forbes has lived in the area most of her life and is a Limited Licensed Psychologist. She worked with the Tri-County Head Start as a child therapist/consultant and was in private practice in St. Joseph. She serves on the 100 Women Strong committee and volunteers at the Stewart School in Lakeshore. She also serves on the Foundation's Nurturing Our Children Committee.

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 community leader in Berrien County.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 269-983-3486 or NanetteKeiser@BerrienCommunity.org.

Berrien Community Foundation Honors Golden Acorn Grantee Award Recipients

The Berrien Community Foundation announced the four 2006 Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients during its 54th annual celebration held on September 13th at the Heritage Center. Donors, volunteers, fall 2005 and spring 2006 grantees, and community partners were recognized during this event as well.

The Foundation's Golden Acorn Awards have evolved over time from honoring teachers to community volunteers to nonprofit organizations. Berrien County teachers continue to be recognized via the annual Golden Acorn Classroom minigrant program.

"With the mounting pressures facing nonprofits, we believe that it is very appropriate for the Foundation to honor their efforts through the Golden Acorn Grantee Awards," shared Dr. Nanette Keiser, Foundation President, "We consider this our unique way to recognize these organizations and their programs that have so much impact in our County."

The Foundation's four focus area grant committees each identified a program funded during the fall 2005 cycle that best exemplified the committees' criteria based on the originally submitted grant applications and updates provided by the programs. The four Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients were then recognized at the 54th annual celebration where they were given the opportunity to describe their programs. They also each received an additional \$1,000 grant for their previously funded programs.



Representing the Golden Acorn Grantee Awards Recipients: Jalicia Brown & Jarren McAfee (Right Directions Ministries), Sue Rue (Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra), Steve McAfee (Right Directions Ministries), Merlin Bushert & Ron Weber (Capstone), and Elizabeth Andrews (BCISD) (l to r)

The Berrien County Intermediate School District was the recipient of the Building Spirit of Community/Arts & Culture Golden Acorn Grantee Award for the Creative Collaborations: Teachers and Artists in the Classroom. This is a partnership project among four Berrien County schools (Benton Harbor, Brandywine, Buchanan, Watervliet), six classroom teachers, seven local arts organizations and eight local artists. It provides hundreds of Berrien County students with opportunities in arts education.

The Capstone Family Center received the Nurturing Our Children Golden Acorn Grantee Award for its Zero to Three Secondary Prevention. This program assists participants to gain parenting knowledge, life skills information, and an increased ability to access community services and support. It is also expected that families will engage in better preventative health care, especially in the way of prenatal care, early immunizations, and well-child visits.

The Lifelong Learning Golden Acorn Grantee Award was given to the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Association for "Around Town" A Taste of the Symphony. Five elementary and middle schools in Benton Harbor received visits from the Symphony's Brass Quintet. This was a tutorial developed in conjunction with the BCISD about brass instruments, including a demonstration, open Q & A, and a musical presentation. A concert was also held at the State Theater that featured the Quintet and Michigan State University's and Benton Harbor High School's Drum Lines.

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds) awarded the Youth Leadership and Development Golden Acorn Grantee Award to Right Direction Outreach Ministries, Inc.,

for its the Sky is the Limit Tutoring Service program. A computer lab with academic software and recreational equipment were provided for this youth-run program. These are integral to this tutoring service and leadership program for students in the Benton Harbor community.

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