

Berrien Community Foundation Awarding \$122,000 in Scholarships

The Berrien Community Foundation will provide \$122,000 in college scholarships to Berrien County students in the 2009-10 school year from its various scholarship programs. The scholarships were recently celebrated at a reception for about 200 donors, scholars, and their guests.

“Our Berrien County youth are making their educational dreams a reality through these scholarships,” said Berrien Community Foundation President Dr. Nanette Keiser. “Generous donors make it possible”.



Derrick Atkins, Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy recipient, shares what the scholarship means to him at the recent celebration

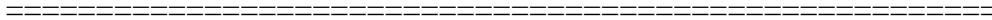
Scholarships and recipients honored at the reception include:

1) **Jean A. Barrick Scholarship:** Lauren Kniebes (Coloma); 2) **Edna Bender Scholarship:** Laura Sanchez (Berrien Springs) (featured speaker); 3) **Bryce Boothby Family Scholarship:** Carlos Mason (Benton Harbor), Rachel Kuehn (Lake Michigan Catholic); 4) **Drews Scholar:** Sara Conrad (Lakeshore); 5) **Dunn Scholarship:** Jessica Laskowski (Andrews University), Jennifer Frantz (Western Michigan University); 6) **Jameson Matthew Gargano Memorial Scholarship:** Sara Conrad (Lakeshore); 7) **Heart of Cook Scholarship Program:** Eeshan Khanpara (St. Joseph) (featured speaker), Christina Nieh (St. Joseph), Kai Peng (Lakeshore), Samuel Range (Lakeshore), Celia Zhang (St. Joseph), Adam Ziolkowski (Lakeshore); 8) **Drs. John E.N. & Dede Howard Instrumental Music Scholarship:** Alexandra Berndt (New England Conservatory), Mary Beth Huttlin (University of Minnesota), Emily Meskauskas (Western Michigan University), Jonathan Reed (Michigan State University), Sara Sulecki (Western Michigan University); 9) **Drs. John E.N. & Dee Howard Lake Michigan College Scholarship:** Megan Barrett, Elliott Skjoldal; 10) **Jon Jollay Scholarship:** Lauren Kniebes (Coloma); 11) **Lora Wile-Miller Memorial Scholarship:** Abram Whitehead (Lakeshore); 12) **Terence Joseph Mulvihill Scholarship:** Kasse Kniola, Erika Piner, Troy Robertson (all New Buffalo); 13) **Carol A. Oehlhaffen Lake Michigan Catholic Scholar:** Sarah Copi; 14) **Carol A. Oehlhaffen Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship:** Derrick Atkins (Benton Harbor) (featured speaker), Chase Cundiff (Lakeshore), Megan Polfus (Lakeshore), Michael Smiy (St. Joseph); 15) **Cora B. Parkhurst Memorial Scholarship:** Leah Steinhauser (Berrien Springs); 16) **Judith E. Phillipi Scholarship:** Kati Jennings (Watervliet), Shawn Lynch (Central Michigan University) (featured speaker); 17) **The Arlene B. Porritt Memorial Scholarship for Curious Kids:** Maggie Patnoudes (St. Joseph); 18) **Don J. Sayan/W. Jack & Dr. Nanette M. Keiser Scholarship:** Erica Bartholomew (Coloma); 19) **Special Scholarships:** These were provided by anonymous donors. Recipients include Patrice Brown (Benton Harbor); Rhiannon Lyness (Benton Harbor), Carlos Mason (Benton Harbor), Jacob Richcreek (Watervliet); 20) **Welch Family Scholarship:** Patrice Brown (Benton Harbor), Abram Whitehead (Lakeshore); and 21) **Wayne K. Wright Scholarship:** Lindsay Kurtz



Laura Sanchez, Edna Bender Scholarship recipient, shares her thoughts on this scholarship at the recent Scholarship Celebration.

Scholarship applications will be available at high school counseling offices and on the Foundation's web site in early February 2010. For more information on the Berrien Community Foundation, please call 269-983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.



TEAM Provides Grants

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation's youth advisory committee, recently recommended a total of almost \$24,000 in grants. This included support for Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan's Link (\$5,000), Curious Kids' Museum's Jammin' Science (\$4,000), Hospice at Home's Lory's Place (\$4,000), Readiness Center's Summer Arts Project (\$1,911), Reclaiming, Equipping, and Directing Youth (READY)'s Martial Arts (\$7,000), and the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan's Youth Volunteer Corps of SW Michigan (\$2,000).

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. 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.



Derrick Atkins (l), TEAM Co Vice Chair and Marsalis Leonard, members of TEAM, confer about several grant applications

The Foundation is actively seeking additional TEAM members for the 2009-2010 school 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 call 983-3304, ext. 2. Activities resume in the fall.

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 \$1.3 million in grants and participated in many service projects to enhance the quality of life for youth today and into the future.

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 the Berrien Community Foundation, please call 983-3486 or visit www.berriencommunity.org.

Grants Awarded to Area Agencies by "The Heart Of Cook"

"The Heart of Cook" grant recipients for 2009 were announced by Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant during a reception at the Curious Kids' Museum on May 18. Grants totaling over \$56,000 were provided to 33 area nonprofit organizations. More than 70 funding requests were received this year.

"The Heart of Cook" is a grant program administered by the Berrien Community Foundation targeted to assist educational, human services, and environmental projects and programs 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.

"We are very proud to support these nonprofit organizations," said Joseph Jensen, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. "We also see this as a way to give back to communities that have given so much to us in terms of support. Congratulations to all of the 2009 Heart of Cook grant recipients."



Canine Companions for Independence's representative receives the grant check from Rick Tinkle, Heart of Cook Grant Committee Chair (l)

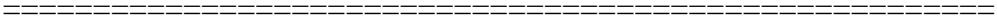
Organizations receiving grants of \$501-\$5,000 were American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Berrien County Council for Children, Berrien County Health Department, Berrien County Shrine Club, Berrien County Youth Fair, Berrien County MSU Extension, Child & Family Services, Curious Kids' Museum, Gateway, Hospice at Home, Junior Achievement of Michiana, Michigan Parkinson Foundation, Public Safety Education (Little Squirt), Residential Services of Southwest, Sarett Nature Center, St. Joseph Art Association (Krasl Art Center), and Volunteer Center of Southwest MI.

Organizations receiving grants of \$500 and under included Animal Aid of Southwest Michigan, Animal Lovers, BAHA (Berrien Area Hockey Association), Big Brother/Big Sisters of Berrien and Cass, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), Countryside Academy, Dynamic Youth Ministries/Youth Unlimited, Greater St. John Missionary

Baptist Church, Hands Up Ministry, Lake Michigan Division-U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Lakeshore High School Electric Race Car Team, Lupus Alliance, Senior Nutrition Services, Inc.-Region IV, St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, St. Mary of the Lake, and Woodland Shores Baptist Church's Caring Cupboard

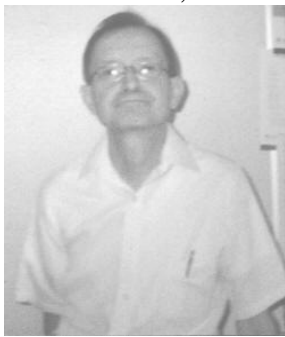
Grant applications for 2010 will be available sometime in January by contacting the Berrien Community Foundation at www.berriencommunity.org.

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, IN and its 2,650 employees serve more than 580,000 customers in Indiana and Michigan. I&M, 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. For more information visit www.indianamichiganpower.com or www.cookinfo.com



Dr. Walter M. Decker Memorial Fund to Benefit Nonprofit Programs

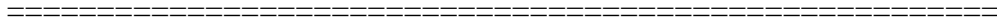
The Berrien Community Foundation recently announced the establishment of a charitable fund in memory of Dr. Walter M. Decker. He was a respected local radiologist, who died in a tragic house fire on November 12, 2004.



Dr. Decker's friends Dr. William and Jeanette Leahey and Dr. Roman and Anna Hyszcak set up the Dr. Walter M. Decker Memorial Fund at the Foundation as a tribute in perpetuity to him. Programs supported by grants from this fund reflect his overwhelming generosity, concern for children, families, and communities in crisis, availability of substance abuse treatment centers, and educational programs. Grants will be distributed to the Curious Kids' Museum (Silver Beach Project), Emergency Shelter Services (Facility sustainability), Child & Family Services of Michigan/Benton Harbor (Safe Shelter sustainability), Community Healing Centers (substance abuse treatment programs), and the American National Red Cross (Berrien County Chapter educational programs).

Dr. Decker graduated from Wayne State University in a combined medical program with the University and the Medical School in 1967. He completed a four year radiology residency at William Beaumont Medical Center in Royal Oak, Michigan. Dr. Decker practiced with Radiology Associates of Berrien County from 1973 to 2003. He was also on staff at Lakeland Hospital. Via this fund, Dr. Decker will be always remembered for his quiet compassion for individuals who have been challenged by extraordinary circumstances.

The Berrien Community Foundation was established in 1952 as an innovative means by which any concerned individual like Dr. Decker could put charitable dollars to work for the benefit of Berrien County and beyond. For more information about the Berrien Community Foundation, please visit www.berriencommunity.org or call 269-983-3486.



Berrien Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

The Berrien Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2009 applications are available for its various scholarship programs. Generous donors make these programs possible.

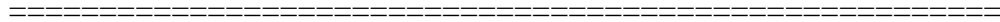
Berrien County graduating high school seniors are encouraged to visit www.berriencommunity.org, Scholarship Page, for a complete list of available scholarships and to determine which programs may be applicable to them. Applications for many of the scholarships programs are available for downloading on 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 9, 2009. Decisions will be announced in early May.

Please contact 983-3304, ext. 2 with specific questions about the scholarship applications.



GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM “THE HEART OF COOK”

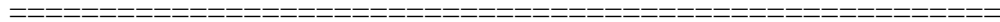
Grant applications for \$100 and above are again available from Indiana Michigan Power’s Cook Nuclear Plant. “The Heart of Cook” is a grant program administered by the Berrien Community Foundation targeted to assist with educational, human services, and environmental nonprofit projects and organizations in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana.

“Cook employees volunteer thousands of hours to community organizations and events each year,” said Mike Rencheck, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. ““The Heart of Cook’s grant program is another way we can express our pride and appreciation for living and working in our various communities.”

The funding focuses for “The Heart of Cook” grants program are educational projects, human services programs that support families, and environmental protection and preservation projects. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to agencies and projects that involve I&M employees. 501(c)(3) tax exempt or equivalent status is required.

“In 2008, we contributed \$53,000 to fund 40 nonprofit programs and special projects in educational and community-based agencies,” said Rick Tinkle, chair of the employee advisory committee.

The deadline to apply is February 11, 2009 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 starting January 14, 2009. For additional information or questions about the applications, please call 269-983-3304, ext. 2.



Berrien Community Foundation Grants Over \$144,000

Berrien County: The Berrien Community Foundation recently awarded over \$144,000 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. After due diligence research by the Foundation staff, committees comprised of knowledgeable volunteers in these focus areas reviewed the grant applications and made recommendations to the Foundation's Board for approval.

“Our grants support a wide range of Berrien County programming from providing access to an afterschool program for youth to a railroad garden for all to enjoy,” said Dr. Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation president. “It is crucial that the Foundation funds these various organizations in Berrien County as they accomplish their missions.”

Building the spirit of community/arts & culture grants totaling \$35,000 were provided to Fernwood's Railroad Garden (\$10,000), Michiana Public Broadcasting Corp.'s WNIT Regional Mobile Unit (\$10,000), Michigan Historical Center Foundation's West Michigan Pike (\$5,000), and the Krasl Art Center's Touch Tone Art (\$10,000).

Nurturing our children grants totaled \$33,000. These included the Berrien County Council for Children's Assessment Center (\$8,000), the Children's Music Workshop (\$4,000), Hospice at Home's Lory's Place (\$6,000), Public Safety Education Program's "Little Squirt" (\$5,000), and the Sunrise Rotary Club/Foundation's Rotary Club Centennial Park project (\$10,000).

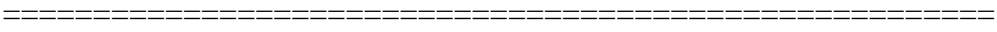
TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds), the Foundation's youth advisory committee, recommended a total of \$23,500 in grants. This included support for Andrews Broadcasting Corporation's Classical Connections for Schools (\$5,000), the Girl Scouts of Singing Sands Council's Girl Scout Activity Center (\$1,500), Harbor Harvest Urban Ministries' Male Mentoring program (\$5,000), Lakeshore Public Schools' Fiesta Bowl trip (\$10,000), and the Water Street Glassworks' Fired Up! Program (\$2,000).

General grants totaled \$39,500 with \$10,000 being dedicated to a collaborative GED/literacy project in 2009. The Berrien County Shrine Club's Shrine Circus program (\$2,000), Cornerstone Alliance's Coming Home Coming Together Concert (\$5,000), Berrien County's Legal Resource Center (\$10,000), the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concert (\$7,500), and the YWCA of Berrien County's Women's Career Closet (\$5,000) were also funded.

The **Healthful Living Endowment** grants support programs that create a healthier lifestyle for youth and seniors in Berrien County. The Region IV Area Agency on Aging's Family Friends for Older Adults was awarded \$6,000.

Twenty-five teachers across Berrien County received a total of over \$7,900 in **Golden Acorn classroom mini grants**. Ranging from \$100-\$500 each, these grants enhance classroom activities throughout Berrien County.

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.



The Lakeland Community Room: A Gift from the Berrien Community Foundation & the United Way of SW MI

The United Way of Southwest Michigan and the Berrien Community Foundation were honored Thursday, October 9, 2008 at the dedication of a mural in the Community Room at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph. The oil painting by Carole Ego features the logos of BCF and the United Way.

The mural also depicts several people and activities that represent the organizations' contributions to and partnerships in Berrien County. The Lakeland Community Room, a gift from the two organizations, illustrates how BCF and the United Way of SW Michigan partner for the good of Berrien County and beyond, leveraging resources to their fullest, and provides meeting space for nonprofits in Berrien County.

Images in the mural include volunteers working on United Way's annual Day of Caring and the organization's support of hundreds of community groups, including the Boy Scouts of America.

BCF's contributions to Berrien County are represented by images of the Jimmy Carter Work Project for Harbor Habitat for Humanity (being a facilitative community leader); longtime area teacher Bernadette Janda McKittrick, who left a legacy endowment fund (planting seeds of philanthropy); James Bridges, Heart of Cook Scholarship representative (providing impactful grants and scholarships); and a man who was honored by his grandchildren through an anonymous advised legacy endowment (building a spirit of community). The two legacy endowments provided the Foundation's \$50,000 grant over time that was matched by the United Way of SW MI.



A mural was unveiled and dedicated Thursday, October 9, 2008, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. The oil painting recognizes the efforts and partnerships of the Berrien Community Foundation and the United Way of Southwest Michigan

Local Funders Partner to Give \$90,000 Grant for Workforce Literacy & GED Training

Joint Press Release:

Berrien Community Foundation

United Way of SW Michigan

Frederick S. Upton Foundation

The Berrien Community Foundation, United Way of Southwest Michigan, and The Frederick S. Upton Foundation announced a combined grant of \$90,000 for Heartland Alliance’s Opportunity Center in Benton Harbor. The grant will support the Opportunity Center’s Workforce Literacy and GED programs. Each funder contributed \$30,000 to the project.

“As funders we were all receiving grant requests for literacy and GED programs from a variety of organizations,” said Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation President. “We all understand that this is such a crucial area of need in Berrien County. We decided to come together and provide one larger grant to make a more significant impact.”

Prior to making the grant, the funders did research and asked several questions.

“We wanted to make sure that the dollars went to an organization that was already producing very positive outcomes,” said Anna Murphy, President of the United Way of Southwest Michigan. “We toured the Opportunity Center and were impressed by their programs and their partnerships throughout the community.”

The partnerships were an important part of making the decision to fund the Opportunity Center.

“The Opportunity Center reaches out and works with many organizations in the community,” said Upton Foundation President Stephen Upton. “They partner very closely with Michigan Works!, Lake Michigan College, and a variety of GED programs in the community and they are getting great results.”

The partnership of the funders is also a positive effect.

“The Berrien Community Foundation, United Way, and Upton Foundation work together on many projects,” Keiser said. “This combined grant is just one more way for our organizations to help make real change in our community.”

Since its inception in July 2007, The Opportunity Center has provided services to more than 500 individuals. The Opportunity Center offers intensive tutoring and context-based workplace skills training in culinary arts, basic construction safety, landscape maintenance and customer service. In addition, the Center offers behavioral-based skills such as problem solving, team work and active listening and helped participants significantly increase math and reading levels. The Center also offers pre-GED and GED preparation training.

The Berrien Community Foundation, founded in 1952, is a public charity created by and for people of Berrien County. The organization's mission is to promote philanthropy, build a spirit of community, and enhance the quality of life in Berrien County and beyond through its stewardship of mostly endowed funds. The Foundation accomplishes its mission by prudently investing these funds, providing flexible and cost effective donor services and impactful grants, and serving as a facilitative community leader.

The United Way of Southwest Michigan is part of a global network that advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. The United Way movement creates long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems that prevent progress in these areas. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to become a part of the change.

The Frederick S. Upton Foundation is a local family foundation started in 1954 by Frederick S. Upton and Margaret B. Upton. Frederick S. Upton founded Whirlpool Corporation with his brother Louis Upton. The Upton Foundation was formed as a way for the Upton Family to continue to give back to and support the community.



(l to r) Steve Upton, Frederick S. Upton Foundation, Nanette Keiser, Berrien Community Foundation, Anna Murphy, United Way of SW Michigan, present the \$90,000 grant to the Heartland Alliance's Opportunity Center's Mary Howard, Devon Spencer, and Barbara Bell

The Berrien Community Foundation Elects New Officers

The Board elected its officers for 2008-2009 at its September 10 Annual Trustees Meeting—Greg Vaughn (Benton Harbor), Chair; Sharon Vargo (Benton Harbor), Vice Chair; Tim Passaro (St. Joseph), Treasurer; and Robert Gottlieb (St. Joseph), Secretary.



Board Officers: Greg Vaughn, Sharon Vargo, Tim Passaro, Robert Gottlieb (l to r)

Tim Passaro is serving his first term as Treasurer. Tim is a CPA and attorney and a member of Passaro & Kahne Law Office, P.L.L.C., which has offices in St. Joseph and New Buffalo. He has been practicing law in St. Joseph since 1977. Prior to that he was a tax manager in a Big 8 CPA firm. He received his business degree and law degree from the University of Notre Dame. In addition to serving as BCF's Treasurer, Tim is Board President-Curious Kids' Museum and a Board member of the Lake Michigan College Foundation and the Lakeland Health Foundation.

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 impactful 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 visit www.berriencommunity.org.

The Berrien Community Foundation Appoints New Members

The Board of Trustees of the Berrien Community Foundation recently appointed 23 new members: ***Patricia Adams, Jane Ammeson, Paul Bailey, John & Terrie Bollman, Judi Burnison, Kimberly Fedison, Rae German, Anne Gottlieb, Sam Harris, Patricia Jordan, Jeff Kyles, Carolina Mata-Tovar, Dr. Randall Miller, Jean & Mark Penwell, Sharon Polfus, Gary Ramberg, David Resch, Steve Ross, Jeff Siegel, Judy Sokolowski, and Carl Spikner.*** With these additions, there are now 154 members of the Foundation.

These new appointments by the Foundation's Board of Trustees are in recognition of the time, resources, and energies these 23 individuals contribute to their greater Berrien County communities. Members act as ambassadors for the Foundation, are the critical core of its volunteer base, elect the Board of Trustees, appoint its auditor, and generally support the Foundation's efforts in Berrien County.

"We are very honored to have these 23 incredible community volunteers join us as members," said President Dr. Nanette Keiser, "Their community perspectives and insights will be invaluable to us as we fulfill our mission to serve Berrien County".

The Berrien Community Foundation is celebrating its 56th year and was founded by William Vawter and other local leaders. Its mission is enhance the quality of life in Berrien County and build a spirit of community through building permanent endowments and other funds, providing donor services and grants, and serving as a facilitative leader in the County. For more information, please call 269-983-3486 or visit www.BerrienCommunity.org.

Berrien Community Foundation Honors Golden Acorn Grantee Award Recipients

The Berrien Community Foundation announced the three 2008 Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients during its 56th annual celebration held on September 10th at the Heritage Center. Donors, volunteers, fall and spring 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 nonprofit organizations. Berrien County teachers continue to be recognized via the annual Golden Acorn Classroom minigrant program.

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

The Foundation's three primary grant committees each identified a program funded during the fall 2007 cycle that best exemplified the committees' criteria based on the originally submitted grant applications and updates provided by the programs. The three Golden Acorn Grantee Award recipients were then recognized at the 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:
Stephanie Mack, Joyce Miller, Elizabeth Andrews, Jeff Siegel (Berrien RESA),
Gloria Mayberry, Janine Andrysiak (Girl Scouts of the Singing Sands, Inc.),
Patricia Adams, Tim Passaro (Curious Kids' Museum) (l to r)**

Berrien RESA's Arts for All program received the **Building a Spirit of Community/Arts & Culture Golden Acorn Grantee Award**. This program includes a Training of Trainers workshop, Art Day, and a library of adaptive art tools for special needs students in Berrien County. Services are provided to about 1,200 special needs children and young adults.

Curious Kids' Museum received the **Nurturing Our Children Golden Acorn Grantee Award** for the **Ground Water Climbing Wall** that will be part of the exciting Silver Beach Project. The wall will foster understanding of and action for ground water conservation and protection in the unique form of a climbing wall that provides hands-on physical learning and good exercise and serve about 70,000 individuals.

TEAM (Teens Exhibiting Able Minds) awarded the **Youth Leadership and Development Golden Acorn Grantee Award** to the **Girl Scouts of Singing Sands Council, Inc.** The program recognized supports underserved, at-risk girls, ages 5-17 in the Berrien County **Girl Scout Activity Center**. This program also offers leadership development, substance abuse prevention, self-esteem building, diversity awareness, and service project participation to about 925 girl scouts.

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For more information, please visit www.berriencommunity.org and/or contact Dr. Nanette Keiser, President, at 269-983-3486.