

Allendale

community foundation SM

For **good.** For **ever.**SM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of the Allendale Community Foundation,

Happy Fall and welcome to the beginning of the Holiday Season!

It is always a great time of the year when the Foundation awards our annual Scholarships to deserving students from our community. Looking at those bright faces – it makes me feel proud that the generous Scholarship Donors and the Community Foundation have played a small role in the success and education of these students – thank you!

Speaking of education – please remember that we will be accepting grant applications for Teacher Mini Grants until November 1st. These are smaller grants that enable teachers to ask for support for a specific project or classroom enhancement. Check out our website for more information.

As we say good bye to the fun days of summer, we begin to look forward to the holiday season when many of us will remember our community with year-end gifts. We have a special plea for you this year – we are losing the Michigan Tax Credit and we want to make a big push, through the end of the year, to get as many gifts to our Foundation by December 31st. We have enjoyed this tax incentive for 20 years and we are sorry to see it expire. Please consider supporting us this year and take advantage of the tax credit one last time!

Thank you for being a part of our Community's Foundation – we are here for good, for ever, for Allendale.



Carl Piersma R.Ph., PA-C, Chair
Board of Trustees Allendale Community Foundation



We are always happy to talk to your group or organization and share information about the Allendale Community Foundation – please call Carl at 616-895-7816 for more information.



Summer Nights in the Park

Friday nights, summer, families, movies and the township park – add them all together and you get FUN! The library's "Movies in the Park" program received a grant from the Foundation's Greatest Needs Fund to purchase a large inflatable screen and microphones for the community to enjoy.

Foundation Awards Scholarships to Area Youth

2011 Scholarships were recently awarded to six outstanding students from Funds established by donors in the Allendale Community Foundation. Thank you to the many donors who have established Funds that support our local students. If you are interested in learning more about how our Scholarship Funds work – please call Holly Johnson at 616-895-4777.

Jared Groeneveld



Erica Beitel



Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship

This Fund was established with the Foundation in loving memory of Lindsey Bakale who died tragically at an early age. **The 2011 recipient is Jared Groeneveld attending Alma College.**

Detter Family Foundation Education Scholarship

This Scholarship was established in 2008 for a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to attend a four year Michigan College to pursue a career in the field of education. **The 2011 recipient is Erica Beitel attending Alma College.**

Detter Family Foundation Leaders in Mathematics and Science Scholarship

This Scholarship was established in 2010 for a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to attend a four year Michigan College to pursue a career in the field of science or mathematics. **The 2011 and the very FIRST recipient is Branden Greinke attending Grand Valley State University.**

Branden Greinke



Lorrie Hughes



David James Merkle Memorial Scholarship

This fund was established in 2006 by the Merkle family to memorialize the life of David, son of Bart and Ann Merkle. This Fund honors David's life by offering scholarships to outstanding students who have been admitted to the College of Education at Grand Valley State University and who plan to pursue careers in special education. **The 2011 recipient of this scholarship is Lorrie Hughes.**

Herman J. Wyngarden Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Herman J. Wyngarden, a longtime educator. It commemorates Dr. and Mrs. Wyngarden's commitment to education by helping deserving students further their education beyond high school. **The 2011 recipient is Jessica Campbell attending University of Detroit Mercy at Aquinas College.**

Jessica Campbell



Rachael Allen

Photo
Unavailable

Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Since 1996, the AACC has been offering a scholarship to a Senior High School Student within Allendale Township who will be attending GVSU. **The 2011 recipient is Rachael Allen attending Grand Valley State University.**

Teacher Mini Grants Available!

Once again, the Allendale Community Foundation is offering local teachers the opportunity to apply for a maximum grant of \$200 from the Greatest Needs Fund to support an innovative classroom program. Applications are available by contacting Roger Feenstra, Chair of the Grants committee at rogef@altelco.net. Application deadline is November 1st.

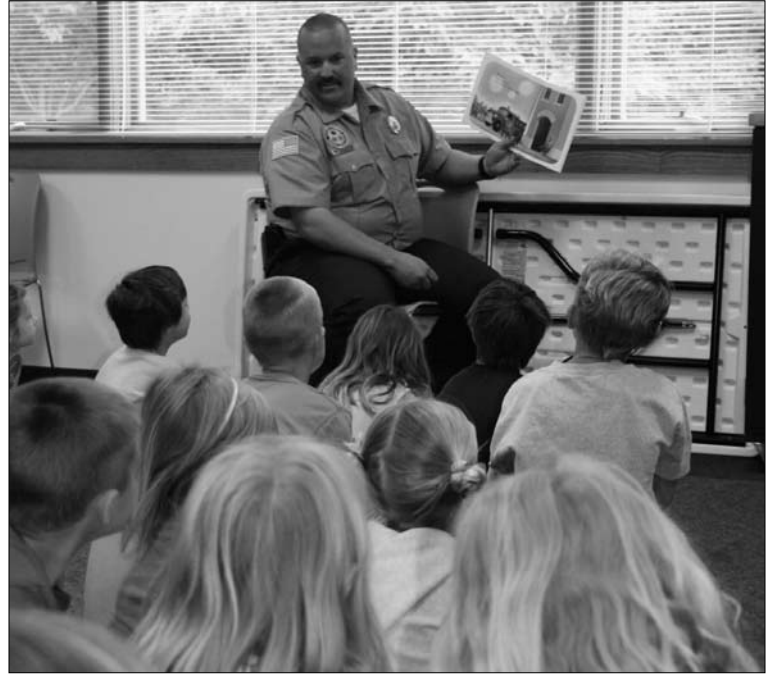
Life Skills for the Classroom

Real life, hands on skills like measuring ingredients for baking, clipping coupons, and shopping for groceries are essential learning experiences for special needs students. Allendale Middle School teacher, Kathy Kohl, received a Foundation mini-grant to purchase the "Real World Math" and "Real World Reading" books to help bring these and other important life skills to her students.



Foundation Grant Supports Junior Firefighter Program

We were happy to partner with the Allendale Fire Department and the Allendale Public Library to launch a new Junior Firefighter Program here in our community. This program promotes literacy and fire prevention education to the children of Allendale Township. During the months of June, July and August; children were treated to special story times, where local firefighters read them books that highlighted fire safety and prevention tips. Each child in the program received an activity booklet to take home and was encouraged to perform a home fire safety inspection with their parents. The highlight of the day was when the children were able to experience a real fire engine and talk to our firefighter friends at the Fire Department. Thank you to the Fire Department and Library for your partnership to make this important, and fun, program possible.



Focus on a Fund: Allendale Christian School Endowment Fund



The **Allendale Christian School Endowment Fund** was started in 2000 and receives generous support from donors in our community. It is a Fund that many give to every year as part of their support of the school, and some supporters have even made the provision for their memorial gifts to come to this Fund at their death. Every dollar that is given to this Fund will forever help support the mission and operations of Allendale Christian School. We are proud to be in partnership with Allendale Christian School to help them build a permanent source of income for the education of their students!

If you were thinking of making a gift to this fund – do not delay! There are great tax incentives to giving to this Fund. Because the Fund is endowed, the Foundation is able to give the Michigan Tax Credit for all donations. That means that 50% of your gift qualifies for a tax CREDIT in addition to the federal tax deduction. That's right – you get to deduct 50% of your gift (up to \$400) right off what you owe the State of Michigan in taxes! But, the Michigan Tax Credit will be expiring at the end of this year (see article on back page). So, you have just a couple of months left to take advantage of this tax savings. Support a great school and save on your taxes – a perfect combination.

Final Year for the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit!

All good things must come to an end...changes to the Michigan tax code signed into law in this year will include the elimination of all charitable tax credits beginning in 2012. This means that Michigan residents and businesses have only a couple of months left to make a contribution to the Community Foundation and receive the added benefit of the Michigan Tax Credit. (Please note – all donations, to any Foundation Fund, are still eligible for Federal Tax Deductions.)

Just to remind you, when an individual, family or business invests in an Endowed Fund at the Community Foundation – like the Greatest Needs Fund here in Allendale - the current Michigan Income Tax or Michigan Business Tax codes allow for up to a 50 percent return on that investment.

If an individual contributes \$200 or more, the tax credit automatically will equal \$100. If filing a dual return, a gift of \$400 or more would yield a \$200 credit. If a business contributes \$10,000 or more, the credit will be for \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, whichever is less.

We have enjoyed this added giving incentive for 20 years and we certainly are sorry to see it expire. But, as we move forward, it is vitally important to remember that any support of the community through a Foundation donation continues to have as much value as ever - regardless of changes to the state tax code.

Do Not Delay - give now to any endowed Fund and take advantage of the Michigan tax credit one last time!

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