



For good. For ever.™

Coopersville Area community foundationSM

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

Chairperson's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'm Jeff Johnson, the chair of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation, and I'd like to share the news of the foundation with you.

We recently awarded over \$25,285 in scholarships to 26 local graduates, and we had a memorable Excellence in Education event at the Coopersville Farm Museum honoring our top 10% of Coopersville High School graduating seniors. Our grant committee awarded \$9,000 in grants to local nonprofits—the next grant deadline is coming up at the end of September.

We've welcomed Marty Alexander and Cheryl Annen to our board, and said farewell to Teresa Kelly, who completed her term. We continue to grow and do good things for Coopersville because of our local leadership. We are honored to have them serve our community! Thank you to all who have served.

We could not exist without the support of this community. Gifts of all sizes enable us to support diverse community needs, many of which will change over time. One of the easiest ways to support our work is to make a gift to our Community Action Fund. This Fund will always be here to help us respond in the good times, the bad, and all of those in-between.

Thank you for your continued support. We are here for good, for ever, for Coopersville!

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson

Chair, Coopersville Area Community Foundation Advisory Board



Jeff Johnson, Chair

Would you like to learn more about opening a fund or how you can give?

Contact Kari Fuller at kfuller@coopersville-cf.org or 616-842-6378 x107. Or donate online at coopersville-cf.org.



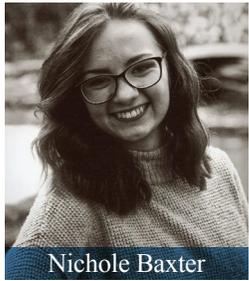
A change in leadership

Holly Johnson, President of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, has resigned her position after six years as president. A search for her replacement is in progress, and the search committee hopes to have the new president in place later this year.

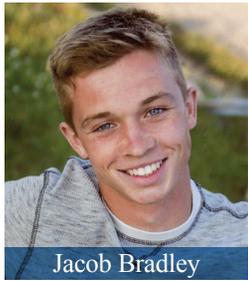
"It has been a privilege to have hired Kari and to have worked alongside the Board for many years," said Holly. "I am proud of the outstanding work that we have done together to care for our community. While I am excited about my new opportunity, I will miss working with everyone in Coopersville."

Foundation Awards Scholarships to 26 Area Students

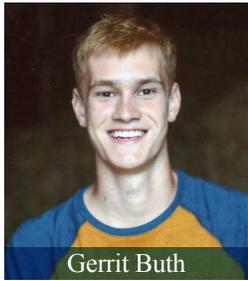
We are pleased to announce the recipients of our Foundation Scholarships, with awards totaling \$25,285. Thank you to the donors who have established funds that support the educational dreams of our local students. If you would like to start a scholarship fund, please call Kari Fuller at 616-842-6378.



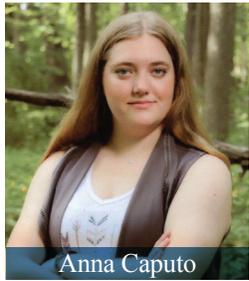
Nichole Baxter



Jacob Bradley



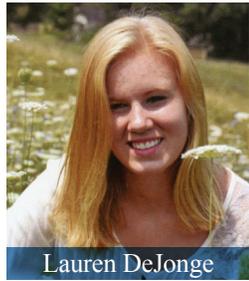
Gerrit Buth



Anna Caputo



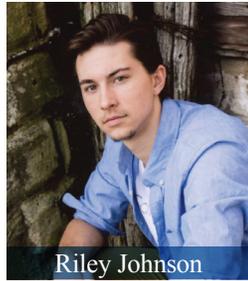
Jessie Cypret



Lauren DeJonge



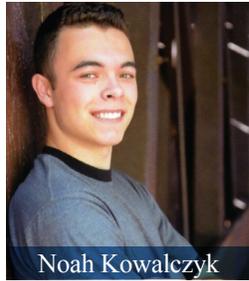
Ethan Foreman



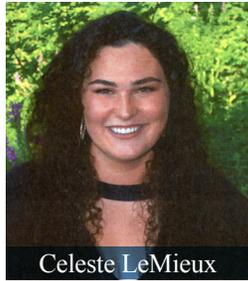
Riley Johnson



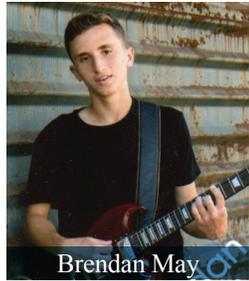
Lauryn Knauf



Noah Kowalczyk



Celeste LeMieux



Brendan May

The Chris Bradley Endowed Memorial Scholarship was established in 1999 in loving memory of Christopher Bradley. The recipients for 2018 are Anna Caputo and Austin Owen.

The Jack and Libby Bush Scholarship Fund was opened in 2005 by the family of Libby Bush as a lasting memorial to Elizabeth "Libby" Bush. The 2018 recipient is Celeste LeMieux.

The David and Mary Jo Busman Family Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 as a lasting tribute to Mary Jo. This scholarship honors a graduating senior who demonstrates academic excellence, a strong work ethic, extra-curricular activities and community involvement. The 2018 recipient is Chloe VanSickle.

The S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2000 by Sherman and Ruth Hecksel in loving memory of their son, S.J. The recipients for 2018 are Lauren DeYoung, Sydney Wurm, and Ethan Foreman.

The Ronald C. Bush Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 by his wife, Karen Bush. This Fund offers a scholarship to a graduate of Coopersville High School. The 2018 recipient is Gerrit Buth.

The Coopersville Scholarship Fund is the Foundation's most flexible scholarship, supporting graduating seniors pursuing a wide variety of degrees. The 2018 recipients are Braelyn Myers, Angie Sorenson, MacKenzie VanSickle, Lauren Knauf, Jessie Cypret, Jake Bradley, Clay Russel, Noah Steffes, and Riley Johnson.

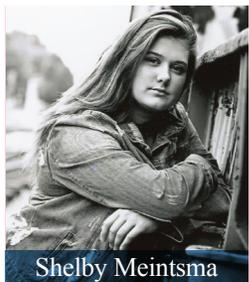
The Del Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund was opened in 2007 in loving memory of Coopersville's own Del Shannon, by his wife Shirley Westover, and his family. The recipients for 2018 are Shelby Myers, Brendan May, Greg Dionaccio, and Nichole Baxter.

The Staci Cheadle Memorial Scholarship Fund was started as a result of an outpouring of community and family love for Staci in 2005. The 2018 recipient is Nathan Syrek.

The Nelson Family Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 by three siblings, and their spouses, who grew up in Coopersville - Raymond and Barbara Nelson, David and RuthAnn Nelson, and Linda (Nelson) and James Brigham. The 2018 recipient is Anthony Nikodemski.

The Daryn Renee Worpel Scholarship Fund was established as a result of an outpouring of memorials after the tragic loss of Daryn. This scholarship will forever support a Coopersville student who desires to pursue their goals and continue their education beyond high school. The 2018 recipients are Shelby Meintsma, Nathan Syrek, and Lucy Schuiling.

David A. Reeves Scholarship Fund was established in 2015 to honor David Reeves, a community leader, business owner and entrepreneur. This Scholarship Fund will forever support a graduating senior from Coopersville High School who is pursuing post-secondary studies in manufacturing or engineering. The 2018 recipient is Noah Kowalczyk.



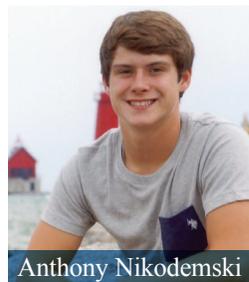
Shelby Meintsma



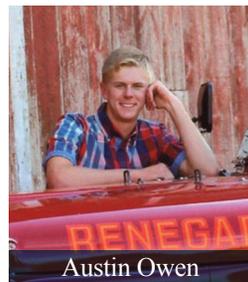
Braelyn Myers



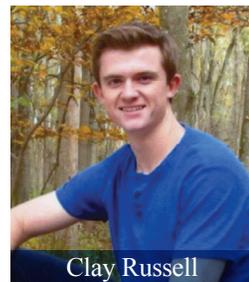
Shelby Myers



Anthony Nikodemski



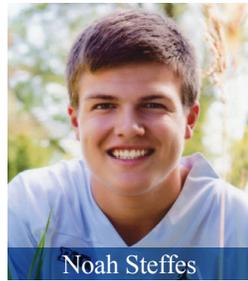
Austin Owen



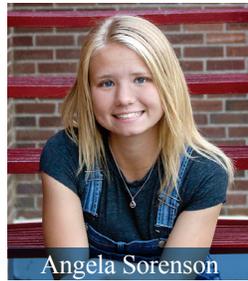
Clay Russell



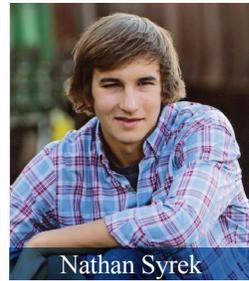
Lucy Schuiling



Noah Steffes



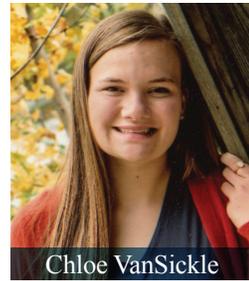
Angela Sorenson



Nathan Syrek



Mackenzie VanSickle



Chloe VanSickle

2018 Excellence in Education



We celebrated Coopersville's top high school seniors in May at our annual Excellence in Education (EIE) Dinner. The EIE Dinner is an opportunity for the Community Foundation to honor the top 10% of the graduating class in Coopersville, as well as the educator chosen by the student who most impacted their school experience.

John VanDoom, a CHS graduate ('06) and co-owner of VanDoom Racing Development, spoke to the students about

turning their passion into a way of life. He attended the machine shop tech center and started his own business with his brother, Butch. Now he builds and drives race cars, traveling around the country from California to Florida doing consulting work for customers. He's won dozens of races and three CRA Series Championships.

Thank you to Ed and Nancy Hanenburg for providing the financial support for this evening, and best of luck to the students!

Victory Day Grant

This past spring we awarded \$3,000 to **Coopersville Area Public Schools** to support Victory Day, a one-day community event that allows persons with limited abilities an opportunity to explore different fall sports, run a 40-yard touchdown, play a drum, and have a day in the spotlight.

This year's Victory Day will be Saturday September 8th, 2018 from 9am to noon at the James P. Meerman Stadium at Coopersville Area Public Schools. *photo credit: Rob Royce*



Grant Deadline

Are you part of a nonprofit organization, a unit of government, an educational institution, or a church? If so, your organization might be eligible to apply for a Community Foundation grant.

**Our next grant deadline is:
September 28, 2018.**

Please send grant inquiries to Kari Fuller at kfuller@coopersville-cf.org or call 616-842-6378 x107 if you have any questions.

Welcome New Advisors

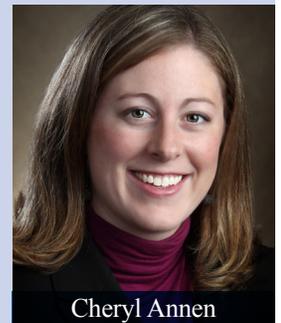
The Community Foundation is able to grow because of the dedicated leadership of many community citizens. We are pleased to welcome **Marty Alexander** and **Cheryl Annen** to our Advisory Board.

Marty is a retired principal from Coopersville South Elementary, a Rotarian, and he volunteers at many community events. He has been active in the community for 15 years and considers Coopersville his adopted town.

Cheryl is a life-long member of the Coopersville community. She is a Tax Senior Manager at BDO USA, LLP, oversees the Intern Program, and takes part in BDO Counts, which organizes volunteer activities for BDO employees. Cheryl is also a Children's Worship teacher at her church, a mother of three, and has spent time volunteering in the elementary schools and classrooms.



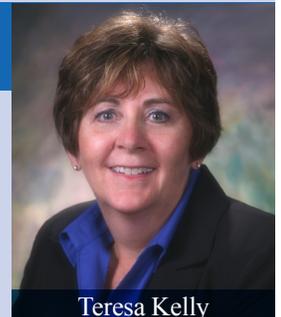
Marty Alexander



Cheryl Annen

Farewell, Teresa

Thank you to **Teresa Kelly**, who completed two terms on the board this past spring. We will miss her dedication to the Coopersville community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.



Teresa Kelly

Coopersville Area

community foundationSM

182 East Street, Rm 112
Coopersville, MI 49404

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Why I Give: Kelly Post, CAYAC Advisor

In June, I brought three high schoolers from the Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC) to the Council of Michigan Foundation’s Youth Grant Makers Leadership Conference at Central Michigan University.

On the two-hour drive home, they all said this weekend changed them. It was one of the best weekends of their life. They felt safe and welcome. They met teens from across the state who are very diverse from them, but everyone was connected through their involvement in youth community foundations. They now really see the value of what they do by volunteering and granting funds to non-profit youth organizations. They are a small group of teens who have the opportunity to be involved

in philanthropic work. Their community is important to these teens and that importance gets addressed through volunteering or giving financial support to those who make a difference in the youth community. We need more of this in our world today.

They kept thanking me for bringing them during the drive home. I don’t want them thanking me, I want to thank them... they took a chance on an opportunity I set before them and they grabbed it. They got involved. They jumped. They absorbed everything.



left to right: Emily Sheridan, Nina Lothschutz, and Destiny Smigiel.

“If you don’t believe in the youth of America.... you haven’t met these kids. They are changing the world. They matter. They’re involved. They’re making their communities a better place.”

2018 – 2019 Advisory Board

Jeff Johnson, Chair
Jen Breen, Vice-Chair
Kelley Monterusso, Secretary
Leo Raap, Treasurer
Marty Alexander
Cheryl Annen
Cori Conran
Ira Engeltjes
Jose C. Gomez
Sue Schmidt

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