



# Chairperson's Letter

Dear Friends,

It's an honor to chair this foundation while we celebrate our 20th anniversary. To mark our 20th year, we're asking everyone to give \$20 to our Greatest Needs Fund as a part of our **Give \$20 for 20** campaign. Many of you have already contributed, and we thank you!

This spring we awarded over \$8,500 in scholarships to eight area high school seniors. Inside this newsletter are stories of grants that we've awarded to help increase inclusion for children with learning challenges, as well as other area nonprofits.

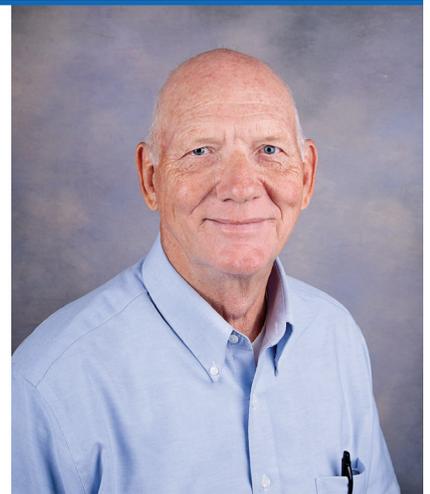
The Allendale Community Foundation has over \$2.5 million in assets in thirty-nine different funds, and over \$385,000 has been given back to the community in competitive grants and scholarships. The Greatest Needs Fund allows us to invest in our community in a flexible and impactful way. When you establish or add to an existing Greatest Needs Fund, your gift addresses a broad range of critical needs, including future needs that cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

We would be honored to have your support. Allendale's future is directly improved by your contributions. All contributions are tax deductible and you can be assured that all support will stay right here in our community.

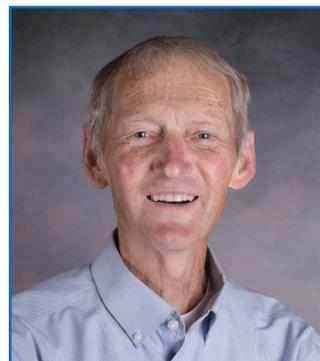
We are here for good, for ever, for Allendale!

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer, *Chair, Allendale Community Foundation*



*Ben Meyer*



## Remembering Ray Statema

We are saddened by the passing of Ray Statema—former board chair, long-time board member, and generous supporter of Allendale and the Allendale Community Foundation.

Ray was passionate about the environment and wanted to inspire the next generation of

nature-lovers. The Ray and Alma Statema Park Stewardship Fund was created in partnership with the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission to help fulfill that dream.

# Foundation Awards Scholarships to Area Students

Scholarships are awarded to Allendale students to help them further their educational experiences. 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 Chris Riker at 616-842-6378.



Taylor Adams



Haley Arsenault



Samantha Brovont



Tumaini Sango



Jeremy Wiersma



Nathan Wynsma

**Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship** Since 1996, the AACCC has been offering a scholarship to a High School Senior within Allendale Township who will be attending Grand Valley State University. The 2019 recipient is **Jeremy Wiersema**.

**Allendale Community Foundation Scholarship** This scholarship was established by the community foundation to support a graduate residing in Allendale Charter Township. The 2019 recipient is **Tumaini Sango**.

**Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship** Established in loving memory of Lindsey Bakale. The 2019 recipient is **Haley Arsenault**.

**Detter Family Foundation Leaders in Mathematics & Science Scholarship** Awarded to a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to attend a Michigan College to pursue a career in science or mathematics. The 2019 recipient is **Samantha Brovont**.

**Detter Family Foundation Education Scholarship** Awarded to a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to attend a Michigan College to pursue a career in education. The 2019 recipient is **Jeremy Wiersema**.

**Alyssa Olafson Memorial Scholarship Fund** Established by friends and family who loved Alyssa. Awarded to a female graduate of Allendale High School who is pursuing a degree in Health and Human Services. The 2019 recipient of this scholarship is **Taylor Adams**.

**Herman J. Wyngarden Memorial Scholarship** Established in memory of Herman J. Wyngarden and awarded to deserving students to further their education beyond high school. The 2019 recipient is **Jordan Elliott**.

**West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Scholarship** Established by the West Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association in 2001, this scholarship was designed to assist students from Ottawa, Oceana, Newago, Muskegon, or Allegan counties who desire to pursue a career in horticulture or the green industry. The 2019 recipients are **Carter Allen** and **Nathan Wynsma**.

## Changes to the Board of Trustees

Your Foundation is able to grow because of the dedicated leadership of many community citizens. We are pleased to welcome several new people to our Advisory Board:



Mark Allen



Gwen Luban



Hilda Wittingen

**Mark Allen** is the Director of Business Services at the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and has lived in Allendale since 2002. Mark is currently the Chair for the Allendale Public School Foundation and has volunteered for many other community organizations including Love Inc., Allendale AYSO, and the Friends of Allendale Public Schools committee.

**Gwen Luban** is a teacher at Allendale Public Schools. She has been in education for 15 years. She volunteers and serves on the board of several Allendale area organizations, such as Love In the Name of Christ and Manna Meals. Gwen enjoys running, gardening, and trying new restaurants.

**Hilda Wittingen** has worked for AcenTek for 22 years and is the Customer Service Manager in the Allendale office. She also serves on the AcenTek Foundation Board and the Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Hilda is an avid walker and is often out walking around Allendale during lunchtime.

Thank you to our outgoing board members **Candy Kraker, Nick Grinzinger, and Janessa Smit**. Your years of dedication and passion for Allendale will be sorely missed!

# Increasing Inclusion for Children with Learning Challenges

We recently awarded \$6,440 in grants to support the Allendale community, including two grants to Allendale Public Schools that strive to increase inclusion for children with learning challenges.

**Allendale Public Schools** received \$1,500 for “Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Needs to Increase Social Communication,” a program that provides communication devices for students with SXI (Severe Multiple Impairment), allowing them to interact with the rest of their peers in general education classes. These devices would broaden the general education student’s worldviews and increase the self-esteem and independence of students with SXIs.

AAC hopes to provide students with a button that will allow them to ask for help as well as a speech generating device to express themselves (GoTalk9+).

This would allow students in the SXI class to initiate conversation and feel included, while also familiarizing the rest of the school (students and staff) to the children with special needs. The general student population would also be able to volunteer to lend their voices for the speech generators – allowing the children with SXI to have their devices accurately portray their own ages and genders.

A second grant of \$1,240 went to APS’s “Oakwood Inclusion,” which provides learning tools at Oakwood Intermediate School for the development and enhancement of inclusive classrooms so that all students can learn to their highest potential. This would allow children with special needs to be integrated into the general education classrooms while also allowing them to have the tools needed to be comfortable and able to learn.



*William Vredevoogd and Peyton Koeze*

Inclusive classrooms or combining special education students and general education students into one class, allow all students to interact with and become comfortable with differences while increasing the sense of belonging for special education students. By bringing in inclusive tools and books, it establishes the idea that not only do people learn at different speeds, but also in different ways. Having general education students introduced to these learning tools would help normalize their use by various people.

*Additional grants include:*

**Allendale Public Schools** – \$1,000 for “Falcon News Network,” a student-centered program that teaches students about media – its production and the journalism behind it.

**Allendale Public Schools** – \$700 for “Phonological Awareness Training,” which will provide funding for nine Allendale kindergarten and young fives teachers to attend the Elevate! Taking Teaching to New Heights conference.

**Allendale Public Schools** – \$1,500 for “Tournament of Books,” to purchase books with more diversity to expose children to diverse points of view while also engaging students in literature.

**Second Church of Allendale** – \$500 for “Hand2Hand,” a program that provides weekend meals to students in Allendale Public Schools who require supplemental nutritional support in tandem to what is available at home.

## What is Give \$20 for 20?

To help celebrate our 20th anniversary, we’re asking the people of Allendale to give \$20. If you’ve never given before, or haven’t given in a while, this is the perfect time!

Over the past 20 years, we’ve helped organizations like the Ottawa County Parks Foundation, Allendale Public and Christian Schools, the Allendale Fire

Department, and many more! With your help, we can continue to give grants long into the future.



*Board members Kellen Brusveen, Rebecca Casler, and Rob Bristow*

The Greatest Needs Fund allows us to invest in our community in a flexible and impactful way. Your gift addresses a broad range of critical needs, including future needs that cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

## Grant & Teacher Mini-Grant Deadline

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

**Our next grant deadline is:  
September 27, 2019.**

Please send grant inquiries to Holly Cole at [hcole@ghacf.org](mailto:hcole@ghacf.org) or call 842-6378 if you have any questions.

# Allendale

community foundation<sup>SM</sup>

*20th Anniversary*

PO Box 365  
Allendale, MI 49401

For **good.** For **ever.**<sup>SM</sup>

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## Why We Give: Olafson Family



When our daughter, Alyssa, suddenly passed away in 2014 at the age of 19 due to a cardiac arrhythmia, our friends Lenny and Tracy Treece reached out to us about starting a scholarship fund.

The Alyssa Olafson Memorial Scholarship Fund is awarded to an Allendale High School graduate who is continuing on with their education. We were inspired by prior scholarships for loved ones that were set up through the Allendale Community Foundation. Our intent was to keep Alyssa’s memory alive and every recipient has been a blessing to our family.

*“Our intent was to keep  
Alyssa’s memory alive.”*

*— Mark & Vicki Olafson*

### 2018-2019 Advisory Board

Ben Meyer, Chair  
Kristi Roelofs, Vice Chair  
Jim Beelen, Secretary  
Rob Bristow, Treasurer  
Mark Allen  
Kellen Brusveen  
Rebecca Casler  
Gwen Luban  
Gwen VanTimmeren  
Hilda Wittingen

### Allendale Community Foundation

PO Box 365  
Allendale, MI 49401  
616-895-4777  
[www.allendale-cf.org](http://www.allendale-cf.org)



Help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary by giving \$20 to our Greatest Needs Fund! Send a check to PO Box 365, Allendale, MI 49401 or donate online at [ghacf.org/donate](http://ghacf.org/donate).

