

Chairperson's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'm Jen Breen, 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 \$28,486 in scholarships to 30 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 \$10,641 in grants to local nonprofits—the next grant deadline is coming up at the end of September.

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.

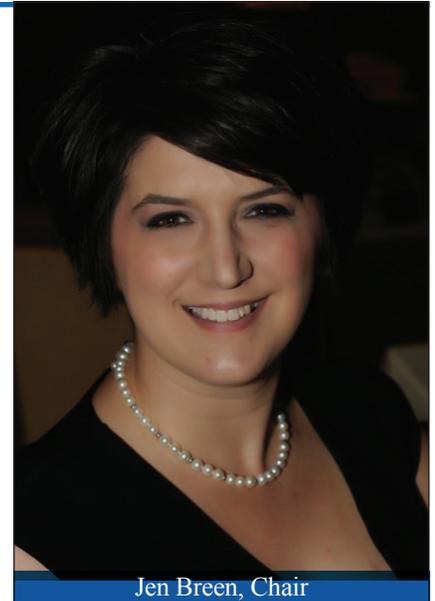
Thank you for your continued support. We are here for good, for ever, for Coopersville!

Sincerely,



Jen Breen

Chair, Coopersville Area Community Foundation Advisory Board



Jen Breen, 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.

Remembering Ward Verseput

We are saddened by the loss of former board chair and friend of Coopersville, Ward Verseput. Ward began his career with Old Kent Bank and spent the last 43 years as an Agency Manager and Agent with State Farm Insurance, the last 24 in Coopersville. A strong advocate of community service, Ward supported many organizations, not only serving in leadership positions but with financial assistance, including Rotary, DDA, Coopersville Area Community

Foundation, and Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few. Ward and his wife Jean recently completed a life-long dream of America's Great Loop aboard his boat "Dream Maker," and he loved downhill skiing, boating, woodworking, model trains, music, and just helping others. He will be greatly missed.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Ward W. and Jean M. Verseput Fund.



Foundation Awards Scholarships to 30 Area Students

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our Foundation Scholarships, with awards totaling \$28,486. 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.

The Chris Bradley Endowed Memorial Scholarship was established in 1999 in loving memory of Christopher Bradley. The recipients for 2019 are Jonathan Epperly, Cole Helsel, and David Holmes.

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 2019 recipient is Julie Hunter.

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 2019 recipient is Zayda Slabbekoon.

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 2019 are Michael Dodde, Daisy Kober, and Emma Schuiling.

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 2019 recipient is Connor Helsel.

The Coopersville Scholarship Fund is the Foundation’s most flexible scholarship, supporting graduating seniors pursuing a wide variety of degrees. The 2019 recipients are Graciela Becerra, Sarah Brandt, Chase Mendham, Alyson Moran, Rylie Camp, Alissa Hoolsema, Clayton De Vos, Taylor DeWildt, Lanie Stream, Sophia VanDongen, and Jack Koczara.

Mandy’s Promise was created by Robert and Patricia Schmidt to help future Doctors of Veterinary Medicine and Vet Technicians. The 2019 recipient is Jossilyn Maycroft.

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 2019 are Cleo Cordes, Grace Olthoff, Emily Ryder, and Dylan Schoolcraft.

The Staci Cheadle Memorial Scholarship Fund was started as a result of an outpouring of community and family love for Staci in 2005. The 2019 recipient is Tyler Rozema.

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 2019 recipient is Grace King.

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 2019 recipients are Anna Burgess and Dylan Worrell.

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 2019 recipient is Samuel Serba.

2019 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.

Gina Otterbein spoke to the students about using tenacity, reflection, and inspiration—what she calls the “Tri Method”—to face life’s challenges. She has spent the last twenty years in Coopersville helping others both through her work and through

service to the community. Gina is a Physical Therapist and co-owner of Northern Physical Therapy, part of the Ivy Rehab Network. She has served as board member and been involved in: Coopersville Chamber, Coopersville Rotary, Del Shannon Car Show, Michigan Physical Therapy Association, Michigan Work Comp Advisory Committee and the GVSU Physical Therapy Steering committee.

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

Grants Increase Accessibility for People with Disabilities

This past spring, our Board awarded \$10,641 in grants to support the Coopersville community, including two grants that aim to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.

The Coopersville Farm Museum received a \$1,500 grant for The Welcome Project, which plans to add an automatic door to make the museum's front entrance barrier-free. Approximately 75% of those visiting the museum are seniors, and many who visit have difficulty getting into the building. This door will make entering the Farm Museum easier for people with disabilities, parents with strollers, and others who need a barrier-free entrance.

The Western Michigan Society for Industrial Heritage (WMSIH) received a \$2,400 grant to convert one of the Coopersville / Marne Railroad railcars to be handicap accessible. Every year, the Coopersville / Marne Railroad has to turn away customers who are in a wheelchair, as they currently do not have ADA-acceptable pieces of safety equipment. The grant will help the WMSIH purchase the ADA-acceptable pieces of equipment for wheelchairs to be secured while the train is in motion, including handicap tracks and three sets of wheelchair tie-downs.



Handicap-accessible rail on the Coopersville / Marne train.



Additional grants include:

Coopersville Area Arts Council – \$2,000 for the Lion King Jr. Summer Camp Experience, a two-week summer camp for middle-school students. The camp provides focused instruction in all aspects of performance on stage, including acting fundamentals, singing, dancing, memorizing lines, team work, and creating and fulfilling goals.

Coopersville Area Public Schools – \$1,900 for Victory Day, a one-day, inclusive sporting experience for people with limited abilities to learn fall sports from CHS student volunteers who participate in athletics and band. The program allows them to have an opportunity to explore different sports, learn new skills like playing percussion, and score a 40-yard touchdown.

The City of Coopersville – Recreation Department – \$1,200 for portable soccer scoreboards and youth football field markers. The grant will offset the cost of purchasing two scoreboards for the soccer fields, located at CAPS Middle School, for U11 and above participants. While Coopersville residents will be the primary beneficiaries, surrounding participating teams of the Great Lakes Co-Ed Soccer League will also benefit from the scoreboards as opponents.

Coopersville Area Public Schools – \$1,641 for purchasing flowering trees, shrubs, and flowers in the Pollinator Garden at the Coopersville Community Trails Park on the CAPS campus. The garden will include native Michigan plants for year-round color to attract butterflies and other pollinators, while also becoming an outdoor classroom to provide environmental education opportunities. Students, teachers, and other visitors can study and work in the garden and learn about nature.



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 27, 2019.**

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

Coopersville Area

community foundationSM

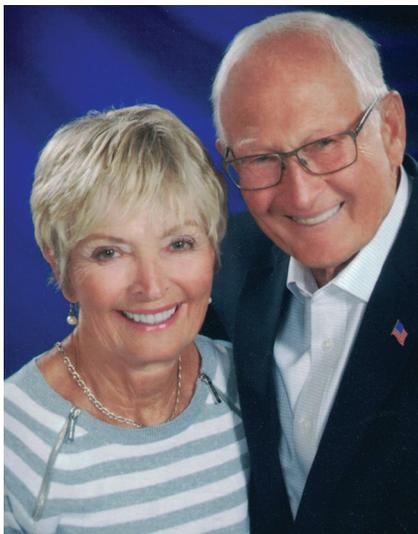
182 East Street, Rm 112
Coopersville, MI 49404

For good. For ever.SM



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Why We Give: The LeMieux Family



Meg and Norm LeMieux

“We are regular people who give what we can and try to donate a percentage of our earnings.”
– Meg LeMieux

Meg and Norm LeMieux are Coopersville community members who care for their community. In their retirement, they became involved in the Coopersville Area District Library, Coopersville Cares’ Feeding America Food Truck, and the Perennial Garden. Meg was on the board for the library, and Norm wanted to do hands-on, outdoor work.

Their passions led them to create the Norm and Meg LeMieux Fund to help nonprofits in Coopersville. Meg says, “When our kids or grandkids contribute to our fund instead of giving us a gift, we are thrilled.”

Glenn, along with his two other siblings, Todd and Ginger, say, “They had a passion for the city they lived and worked in, and wanted to keep money and efforts focused on the city that gave them so much. Their fund was a way to direct resources to some of their nearest and dearest causes.” The entire LeMieux family is making an impact with their time, talent and treasures.

The LeMieuxs are Legacy members, which means they’ve promised a gift to the foundation upon their deaths. “When Norm died, I asked for memorial contributions in his honor. We encourage everyone to be part of the community and help that community.”

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