



Chairperson's Letter

Dear Friends,

This has already been a year unlike any we've experienced in our lifetimes. The pandemic has changed the way we live, but it hasn't changed the way we care for one another, and the Allendale community has continued to demonstrate why we are #AllendaleStrong.

In the midst of the stay-at-home order, we were rocked additionally by the unexpected passing of our board chair Ben Meyer. Thank you to trustee Jim Beelen for sharing his thoughts below on our colleague and friend, Ben.

In response to COVID-19, we, alongside our parent organization, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF), have granted almost \$1 million to nonprofit organizations in Ottawa County. Please look inside for more on our COVID-19 response.

One thing that hasn't changed is our scholarship program! This spring we awarded over \$8,540 in scholarships to seven area high school seniors. Congratulations to the recipients, and to the entire class of 2020.

If you would like to give back to your community and help us continue our good work, please consider a gift to the Greatest Needs Fund. 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,

Kristi Roelofs, Chair, Allendale Community Foundation



Kristi Roelofs

Remembering Ben Meyer



In early May, the Allendale Community Foundation Board was shocked and saddened by the news of the accidental death of its chairman Ben Meyer. Ben would be the first to remind us that his death was not an accident. Ben was a person of faith and that fact was evident in all that he did. For many years he was involved in the education of young people from the West Michigan area and beyond. His impact as an educator was evident by the many posts and guestbook signatures written by former students, from all over the states and from around the world, left in his memory.

Ben brought to the foundation board a "Mr. Rogers" wit and wisdom. His compassion for the work of the foundation was exceptional. His connection to the community and its needs was enhanced by conversations with his daughters and grandchildren, who are involved in Allendale Public Schools and Allendale Christian School.

The Allendale Community Foundation Board and the Allendale Community wishes to express its condolences to Ben's wife, Judy, and his family. Ben truly was "For good. For ever."

—Jim Beelen, ACF board member

Allendale Community Foundation • PO Box 365, Allendale, MI 49401 • 616-895-4777 • www.allendale-cf.org

The Allendale Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

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.



Rebecca Blower



Lawton A. Courteau



Jenna R. Gerakinis



Logan Heft



Taylor A. Holthof



Rachel L. Sinnott

Allendale Community Foundation Scholarship This scholarship was established by the community foundation to support a graduate residing in Allendale Charter Township. The 2020 recipient is **Lawton A. Courteau**.

Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship Established in loving memory of Lindsey Bakale. The 2020 recipient is **Jenna R. Gerakinis**.

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 2020 recipient is **Logan Heft**.

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 2020 recipient is **Rebecca Blower**.

David James Merkle Memorial Scholarship Established in memory of David, who worked with many special education teachers in the Allendale Public Schools and at Sheldon Pines School. Awarded to students at Grand Valley State University who plan to pursue careers in special education. The 2020 recipient of this scholarship is **Riley Crook**.

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 2020 recipient of this scholarship is **Rachel L. Sinnott**.

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 2020 recipient is **Taylor A. Holthof**.

Not pictured: Riley Crook.

New Board Member

This spring, we were happy to welcome Dr. Nicholas Lillie to the Allendale Community Foundation advisory board. Dr. Lillie is a graduate of Allendale High School and Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, where he earned numerous academic honors and finished at the top of his class. He opened his Optometry office in Allendale in 2011.

Dr. Lillie is a big believer in giving back to the community. He is a board member for Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce and his office spearheads many community initiatives such as: Movies in the Park, the Give One Day program with Love Inc., and his Eye Read Program.

Dr. Lillie is married to his lovely wife, Ashley and has three beautiful daughters.



Nicholas Lillie

Grant helps local victims



The Allendale Community Foundation recently awarded \$5,000 to **Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence** for "Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Services."

"This funding helps cover our crisis response services to the Allendale community," said Beth Larsen, Executive Director of Resilience. "Services such as our 24-hour help line, confidential emergency safe shelter, and forensic nurse exams for victims of sexual assault are available around the clock, every day of the year." This grant will also help cover advocacy and trauma therapy services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

You can learn more about the services provided by Resilience at resiliencemi.org/.

Helping Our Community Recover from COVID-19

Our community—and our country—is facing a challenge unlike anything we've ever known. People are hurting and our nonprofit partners are suffering. We want to share the ways we've helped in the past few months.

Community Coalition

From March 14 through May 18, a community coalition comprised of the Greater Ottawa County United Way, the GHACF, Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance, Community Spoke, and the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area worked together to monitor the ongoing developments surrounding COVID-19, as well as proactively worked to assist with the increasing needs of our community.

During that time, the coalition awarded 110 grants totaling over \$900,000 from the Emergency Human Needs Fund to area nonprofit organizations that are helping our community in this time of crisis.

The coalition also launched careottawacounty.com to keep the public informed of how they can help. This website lists ways to volunteer, as well as how to donate goods and/or monetary gifts.

Community Relief & Recovery Fund

This new fund was established at the GHACF to respond to the current and long-term impact that COVID-19 will have on individuals, families, and nonprofit partners within Northern Ottawa County. This fund will enable the foundation, fund holders, and donors to pool resources to collectively support relief and recovery of nonprofits who have been adversely affected by COVID-19.



Restoring Hope Challenge Match

The Community Relief & Recovery Fund (CR&R) is non-endowed to ensure resources will be used to respond to the evolving crisis and long-term plans for recovery.

Areas of focus include safe housing, accessible nutrition, physical and mental health, education, arts and culture, frontline fatigue, and vulnerable communities such as seniors and children. \$266,044 has already been granted from this fund.

Through June and July, Restoring Hope Challenge Match aimed to raise \$300,000—for a total of \$600,000—for the CR&R Fund.

Thank you to all who have given, and a very special thanks to the Loutit Foundation and Tri-Cities Women Who Care for their generous contributions.

How You Can Help

If you would like to give to the Community Relief & Recovery Fund, visit give.ghacf.org/allendale-donation.

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 25, 2020.**

Please send grant inquiries to Holly Cole at hcole@ghacf.org or call 842-6378 if you have any questions.

Greatest Needs Fund

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.

When you are making your giving decisions this year, please consider a gift to this important Allendale fund.

ghacf.org/allendale/donation

Allendale

community foundationSM

PO Box 365
Allendale, MI 49401

For good. For ever.SM



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Why We Give: Allendale Community Foundation

As a community foundation, we care deeply about Allendale and are committed to bringing together the right people and partners to forever care for this place we call home. We exist to help our community, and we're proud to have stepped up when needed.

Gwen Luban, a trustee with the foundation, shares her experience.

"The Allendale community is blessed to have so many organizations and individuals willing to assist in the feeding of area families.

"From sponsors—some of whom gave thousands of dollars—to the many volunteers who contributed thousands of hours packing bags, receiving and organizing donations, shopping for food, assisting families during pantry hours, and so much more behind the scenes in order to make the whole venture successful.

"So many people stepped up with donations of money and food. Others helped by

volunteering to shop for food or work a shift in the pantry. Others offered prayers. As soon as we put a plea out for resources, the community came through. We are truly blessed to live in a community that comes around and supports one another. I can't imagine living anywhere else. #AllendaleStrong."

"It was so humbling to see the entire community come together to help support each other during this global pandemic."

— Gwen Luban, ACF trustee

Thank you to the leadership team from Ripple Effect/Lifestream Church, Ottawa County Schools Network, Love INC, AACC (Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce), Manna Meals, and Hand2Hand.

2020-2021 Advisory Board

Kristi Roelofs, Chair
Jim Beelen, Vice Chair
Rob Bristow, Treasurer
Gwen Luban, Secretary
Mark Allen
Kellen Brusveen
Rebecca Casler
Nicholas Lillie
Gwen VanTimmeren
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