

Leaving A Legacy

Thank you to those who have chosen the community foundation as a way to enhance the community for future generations through a planned gift. Leaving a gift to the community foundation allows individuals to support the causes that they are most passionate about forever.

Beginning with 59 members in 2003, the Legacy Society has grown to more than 330 individuals today. It is because of that generosity that Northern Ottawa County remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play – and will remain for future generations.

We created this special section to honor those legacies that have been realized over the past year (June 2021-March 2022). We would also like to acknowledge the recent passing of the following Legacy Society Members: Sue Ellen Hinkle-Barrett, Nancy Dornbos Rhem, and Richard Scholler. We plan to honor and recognize their legacies in a future publication.



Muriel Mersereau

Muriel Mersereau lived a life full of love for her family, her community, and new experiences. Muriel was a lifelong community member of Grand Haven. Her passion for life and dedicated service allowed her to explore many walks of life and areas of the world. She continuously befriended countless individuals, learned new skills, and most importantly helped others. Muriel's philanthropy was people centric, reflected in her international mission trips and long history of charity in memory of others. She devoted her life to truly understanding and embracing everyone she met with love and warmth. Muriel impacted numerous lives with her generous spirit and boundless love for all the world has to offer.



Gerald Retzlaff

Gerald "Jerry" Retzlaff connected with every part of our community. He was not only a leader of a local business, but also dedicated his time to a variety of nonprofit organizations and local initiatives like International Aid and the Committee of Economic Development. His work was always community oriented and centered on supporting others and the Grand Haven area. Jerry lived an authentic life, welcoming to all who met him, and was a man who cared deeply for his friends, family, and community. Jerry's memory will live on through the individuals who loved him and the organizations his legacy will continue to support.



Patricia Shears

Patricia "Pat" Shears committed wholeheartedly to supporting her community and neighbors in everything she did. Her love was unconditional and all encompassing. She held a great passion for philanthropy within the community, becoming the first woman president of the Tri-Cities Kiwanis Club. Her energetic and kind spirit was inviting to anyone who met her and reflected her deep love for all life had to offer. Pat's impact within the community was one of kindness and genuine warmth. Her ability to celebrate the joy of living through her every day actions will continue to be visible within our community for years to come thanks to her support of our children's future through continued education.



Peter Theune

Peter Theune lived a life devoted to helping others. He was a local leader, full of kindness and passion, who cared deeply for his community. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of The Little Red House, The People Center, and Bluebird Cancer Retreats – organizations that continue to serve our area today. Peter held a great love for everyone around him, especially his family, as well as the world's natural beauty – and his actions reflected this. His dedication to supporting the community was a lifelong effort that continues to impact countless individuals, families, and organizations.

Legacy Society Members

If you would like more information about joining the Legacy Society, please contact Chris Riker.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Tom Alguire | Martha Erickson | Mike McKeough | Gary & Karen Sherwood |
| Donald & Cindy Anderson | Janet Ernst | Nina McKeough-Reed | Karen Shields |
| Len & Wanda Anderson | Jon & Glenda Eshleman | Larry & Anne McLaughlin | Dorothy Sikkema |
| David Baas | Steve & Mary Jane Evink | Damon & Kim McLaughlin | Gerald & Linda Slagel |
| Paula B. Baas | Wallace & Jane Ewing | Douglas McNeil | Robert E. & Janice D. Sluka |
| William & Mary Baker | Patricia Fisher | Sandra & Frank Mercurio | Gary & Jorri Smith |
| Steven & Kathryn Bandstra | John & Kathryn Fortino | Robert J. & Donnell S. Mersereau | Julie Smydra |
| Charlie & Mary Jo Bassett | Patrick & Robin Fraker | Jean Fisher Mesler | Linda S. Shores & R. Michael Snodgrass |
| Charles (Chad) Bassett II | Barbara Fugazzotto | Nancy E. Middlebrook | Rick & Mary Ann Snyder |
| Paul Bedient | Edward "Tony" Gage | Dr. James Moore & | Larry & Stephanie Staab |
| William & Carolyn Benes | Rob & Jill Garrison | Patricia Eddington | Tyler M. Stafford |
| Carroll & Dottie Bennink | Tom Gifford | Phyllis A. & Darell L. Moreland | James J. & Sheila G. Steffel |
| Patrick S. Berg | Edward & Laura Grafton | Steven & Sandra Moreland | Peter & Carolyn Sturuss |
| Jeff & Tammy Beswick | Randy & Nancy Grevel | Evelyn Morford | Kent & Bonnie Suchecki |
| Susan & Mark Blauvelt | Edward & Nancy Hanenburg | Donald Moss | Ruth Suchecki |
| William & Katherine Blessing | Janet A. Harestad | Peter & Sheila Murdoch | Dennis & Carol Swartout |
| Mary Jane Boettcher | Steve & Tami Harvey | Nancy & Charles Nagtzaam | Dan & Ann Tabor |
| Norm & Carolyn Boeve | Shirley Hipwell | John & Kathryn Nash | Philip & Mary Kay Taylor |
| T. Arnold & Lynne Boezaart | Andy & Alice Hoban | Raymond F. & Barbara J. Nelson | James Teitsma |
| Calvin & Evelyn Bosman | Bud & Charyn Hoffman | Matthew M. & Kathryn E. (Jerovsek) Olds | Ken and Mary Terpstra |
| Barbara Boyer | Stephen & Joy Hohmeyer | Greg Oleszczuk & Jeanine | Guy & Alisha Terrill |
| Tom Braciak | Judith W. Hooyenga | Taghon-Oleszczuk | Judy Theune |
| Patricia K. Briegel | Jim & Deb Hovinga | James & Ruthann Olthoff | Janet Tomhave |
| Budd & Melinda Brink | Paul & Diana Hugo | Roy & Joyce Overway | Joseph & Carol Uridil |
| James & Jane T. Brown | Sherry Jackoboice | Jill & Tim Parker | Edith VanBurgal |
| Fred Bruhn | Tom & Barb Jackoboice | Dan & Eileen Paull | Donna vandenBerg |
| John & Claire Bryson | Mary Jacobson | Elizabeth Peel | John Vander Kooi |
| Cheri & Ron Bultje | Nelson & Lana Jacobson | Thomas C. Pegg | Marianne VanEenaam |
| Kevin Carbary & Carol Alexander | Nancy Jacobson Bueche | Steve Pekich | Dale & Susan VanZantwick |
| Nancy Carlyle | Bari S Johnson | Anita Pellegrom | Elinore "Norna" Verplank |
| Cyndi Casemier | Holly & Erick Johnson | Matthew & Joyce Pellegrom | L. J. "Midge" Verplank |
| Stacey Cassis & Arianna Morales | Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson | Marsha Peterson | Tony & Monica Verplank |
| Joe & Cheryl Clark | Roger & Susan Jonas | John & Mary Planteroth | Ken & Sherri Vis |
| Margaret Coffey | Jeff & Kellie Jullie | Larry Poel | Margot L. Van Dis & Jeffrey R. Miller |
| John Cook & Jane E. Leonard | Aurthur & Janice Kanine | Craig & Coreen Porter | Robert & Deborah Wagenmaker |
| Craig Councilor & Valerie Guttowsky | James & Mary Keating | Edward & Barbara Post | David & Patricia Walborn |
| Harold "Pete" & Cindy Crane | Katherine L. Keck | Shirley A. & Ted A. Poulton | Ruth Wallinga |
| Kennard & Wendy Creason | J. Gregg & Mary Keeton | Joseph & Nancy Prinzi | Walt & Daphne Weber |
| Thomas & Michelle Creswell | Jack & Joanne Kelley | Bill & Aileen Redeker | Amy L. West |
| Scott Curtis | Sanford "Mark" & Kristine Kelley | Field Reichardt | Andrew Wheeler |
| David & Carol DeBlaey | Barbara Kelso | Rosanne M. Reiss | Curtis & Terri Whiting |
| Terry & Sandi DeGroot | Phil & Jane King | M. Gary & Pennie Robertson | David & Mary Whiting |
| Daniel & Brenda DeVeau | Thomas & Kimberly Kitchen | Lloyd Rotz | Annette Whitney |
| Barbara DeWitt | Dave & Sandy Klaassen | Sylvia & Ron Ruscett | Nancy & Warren Wildeman |
| Ralph DeYoung | Kurt & Jennifer Klaassen | Robert & Bobbi Jones Sabine | Leslie Wills |
| Virginia Dornbos-Rolstone | Mark A. & Elizabeth Kleist | Dan & Carol Scanlan | Paul Withun |
| James A. & Dulce Doss | Raymond & Betsy Komray | James Schmidt & Karen West | David & Karen Young |
| Megan & Jamie Doss | Keith & Patricia Konarska | Carol Scholler | Rosemary A. Zink |
| Joyce Draft | Scott & Madonna Kramer | David & Jinny Schultz | Michael & Sasha Zolik |
| Dennis & Barbara Dryer | Ken Lahey | David & Sharon Seaver | Douglas & Janice Zuidema |
| Gloria Durkee | Keith & Bernice Lamkin | Kenneth & Sandra Sharkey | Marian Zupin |
| Myrna Duthler | Tom & Jackie Laughlin | William & Susan Shattuck | |
| Jim & Marla Dykstra | Philip M. & Betty J. Leech | John Shears | |
| Nancy Dzierzawski | James & Nancy MacLachlan | Budge & Marilyn Sherwood | |
| David & Mary Eagin | Angelo & Laura Marasco | | |