A Future-Shaping Legacy

Stewardship is ultimately about the future.

It is about ensuring that the values and generosity of today continue to strengthen the community for generations to come. Through planned and legacy gifts, individuals and families partner with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation to create lasting impact.

These commitments establish permanent resources that support the causes they care about most—helping ensure that opportunities, programs, and organizations continue to serve Northern Ottawa County long into the future.

Legacy Society

Members of the Foundation's Legacy Society have chosen to include the community in their life's story. Their generosity reflects a deep belief in this place and a shared commitment to investing in what comes next.

In the pages that follow, we pause to remember Legacy Society members who passed away in 2025 and honor the lasting impact of their generosity. We also recognize the many individuals whose legacy commitments will continue shaping the future of our community for generations to come.

We honor the memory of Legacy Society members David J. Klaassen, Pennie Robertson, David H. Schultz, and Carolyn M. Sturrus, who passed away during the past year. Their generosity will continue to make a difference for generations to come. We look forward to celebrating their lives and legacies in a future publication.



Leonard "Len" Anderson

Leonard "Len" Anderson led by example, creating opportunities and success not only for himself but for the community as a whole. He believed in hands-on leadership with his philanthropy. Len grew up near the waterfront when there were minnow stands, coal piles, and old factories. His work to convert the factory at One South Harbor into a beautiful building was a catalyst for the development and beautification of the Waterfront. Additionally, Len was involved with many organizations, including the Grand Haven Schools Foundation, Rotary Club, Grand Haven Area Jaycees, and as a trustee of the Community Foundation. He cherished life, enjoying each moment spent outdoors, traveling, and especially with family. Len's integrity, devotion, and compassion will continue to impact our community, and resonates within each individual who knew him.



Fred Bruhn

Fred Bruhn built a legacy grounded in education and community service. A lifelong Grand Haven resident, he dedicated his career to local schools as both a teacher and administrator. Fred was also deeply involved in community life. He volunteered for the Coast Guard Festival and helped lead fundraising efforts for a new festival building. Never one to shy away from hard work, he also contributed to local construction and housing projects and co-developed Swiss Village in Ferrysburg. Through his work in education and service, Fred's impact continues to shape the community.



Claire Bryson

Claire Bryson brought warmth, wit, and grace to those around her. Known for her humor and thoughtful spirit, she had a remarkable ability to make others feel welcomed and valued. Claire served her community in many ways, including as a substitute teacher for Spring Lake Schools and as a member of the local library board. She also had a deep love for music, singing in local choirs, supporting St. John's Episcopal Church's music program, and championing music education in local schools. Her spirit created harmony wherever she went.



Barbara "Barb" De Witt

Barbara "Barb" De Witt lived a life filled with joy, generosity, and dedication to others. A lifelong resident of the Tri-Cities, she devoted her career to education as a Reading Specialist for Grand Haven Area Public Schools, helping countless students discover the joy of learning. Barb was also deeply involved in community life through Spring Lake Presbyterian Church and organizations including Grand Haven PEO, 100 Women Who Care, and the Momentum Center. Her bright spirit and love for others continue to shine through the lives she touched.



Gloria J. Durkee

Gloria Durkee held a deep appreciation for the natural world. A lifelong resident of West Michigan, she and her husband Dwight found joy in the beauty that surrounded them. Gloria especially loved spending time outdoors through walks, birdwatching, and tending her garden. Throughout her life, Gloria believed in caring for the natural environment and the animals that share it with us. Through her estate, a field of interest fund was established to support organizations that advocate for and care for animals across Ottawa and Muskegon counties, ensuring that her love for nature continues for generations.



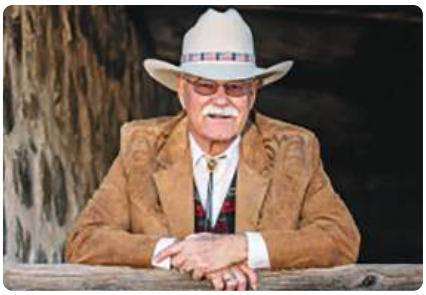
Carl Jesser

Carl Jesser devoted his life to family, service, and community. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he returned home and became a dedicated leader within the Allendale community. Carl worked in the credit union industry and volunteered extensively. He served on the Allendale Planning Commission, was an active member of the Lions Club, and remained deeply involved in his church. As a member of the Allendale Community Foundation Advisory Board, Carl helped guide resources toward the community's greatest needs.



Joanne Kelley

Joanne Kelley was known for her genuine kindness and dedication to others. After settling in Grand Haven in 1970 with her husband Jack, she quickly became an active member of the Tri-Cities community. Joanne helped establish volunteer programs supporting Hospice and North Ottawa Community Health, now Trinity Health. She also enjoyed sailing and golf and was a longtime member of the Grand River Sailing Club, Spring Lake Yacht Club, and Spring Lake Country Club. Through the establishment of a Greatest Needs Fund, Joanne ensured her generosity will continue supporting the evolving needs of the community she loved.



Sanford "Mark" Kelley

Mark Kelley was known for his integrity, kindness, and commitment to service. His time in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War shaped his lifelong dedication to supporting fellow veterans. Mark helped establish the Michigan Chapter of Folds of Honor and remained active in community service through Rotary and other local initiatives. He also supported the Special Education department at Grand Haven Area Public Schools. Through his leadership and generosity, Mark made a lasting difference in the lives of many.



Evelyn Morford

Evelyn Morford dedicated her life to caring for others. After graduating from Grand Haven High School, she became a registered nurse and served patients in local hospitals throughout her career. Evelyn also helped educate future nurses and contributed to the development of nursing programs. Her commitment to service extended through her volunteer work with St. John's Episcopal Church, Four Pointes, and Tri-Cities Ministries, now Mosaic Counseling. A five-time recipient of the Michigan Medicare Assistance Program Award for volunteer service, Evelyn's compassion and dedication to helping others remain a lasting part of her legacy.



James "Jim" Olthoff

James "Jim" Olthoff lived a life defined by gratitude, generosity, and service. He cherished time spent with family and friends, especially at their cottage and during travels with his wife, Ruthann. Jim remained deeply engaged in the community through St. John's Episcopal Church and organizations including the YMCA, Spring Lake Country Club, and the Muskegon Lions Club, where he served as president. He also supported numerous local organizations and preservation efforts, helping ensure they continue to serve future generations. Jim's kindness, community spirit, and commitment to giving back leave a lasting legacy in the lives he touched.



Matthew Pellegrom

Matthew Pellegrom lived a life rooted in dedication to his hometown. Born and raised in Grand Haven, he remained deeply connected to the community throughout his life. Alongside his wife, Joyce, a longtime educator with Grand Haven Area Public Schools, Matthew supported the people and places that made the community special. He proudly served as a member of the Grand Haven Sons of the American Legion and championed preservation efforts at local landmarks, including the Catwalk, Coal Tipple, and North Ottawa Dunes. An avid photographer, Matthew also enjoyed capturing the beauty of everyday moments. His love for Grand Haven and commitment to community continue to inspire those who knew him.



Ted A. Poulton

Ted Poulton brought energy, humor, and curiosity to everyday life. He embraced new passions with enthusiasm, whether sailing, traveling, or dancing. Ted also dedicated his time to community service through organizations including the West Shore Symphony Orchestra, Grand Haven Area United Way, North Ottawa Community Hospital, and the Tri-Cities Family YMCA. His joyful spirit and appreciation for life's moments created a legacy of kindness that continues to inspire those who knew him.

Legacy Society Members

Dr. Tom Alguire
Don & Cindy Anderson
Wanda Anderson
Paula Baas
David Baas
Howie & Tammy Bailey
William & Mary Baker
Steve & Kathryn Bandstra
Mary Jo Bassett
Charles "Chad" Bassett II
Paul Bedient
William & Carolyn Benes
Dottie Bennink
Patrick Berg
Jeffrey & Tammy Beswick
Mark & Susan Blauvelt
Kitty Blessing
Mary Jane Boettcher
Dr. Norman & Carolyn Boeve
T. Arnold & Lynne Boezaart
The Hon. Calvin & Evelyn Bosman
Barbara Boyer
Tom Braciak
Patricia Briegel
Budd & Melinda Brink
James & Jane Brown
John Bryson
Nancy Jacobson Bueche & David Bueche
Cheri Bultje
Ron Bultje
Dr. Paul & Denise Busman
Kevin Carbary & Carol Alexander
Nancy Carlyle
Cynthia Casemier
Andy & Joyce Cawthon
Joseph & Cheryl Clark
Margaret Coffey
Michael Cook
Craig Councilor & Valerie Guttowsky
Harold & Cindy Crane
Dr. Kennard & Wendy Creason
Tom & Michelle Creswell
Mr. Scott Curtis
Carol DeBlaey
Dr. Terry & Sandi DeGroot
Daniel & Brenda DeVeau
Barbara DeWitt
Denise DeWys-Gilbert
Ralph DeYoung
James & Dulce Doss
James & Megan Doss
Joyce Draft
Dr. Arno & Judith Driedger
Barbara & Dennis Dryer
Myrna Duthler
James & Marla Dykstra
Nancy Dzierzawski
David & Mary Eagin
Martha "Marty" Erickson
Janet Ernst
Jon & Glenda Eshleman
Steve & Mary Jane Evink
Wallace "Wally" & Jane Ewing
Charles & Patricia Fisher
Jenny Forner
John & Kathryn Fortino
Patrick & Robin Fraker
Barbara Fugazzotto
Edward "Tony" Gage
Robert & Jill Garrison
Tom Gifford
Edward & Laura Grafton
Michael & Priscilla Gregels
Randy & Nancy Grevel
Wayne & Aaron Haight
Edward & Nancy Hanenburg
Janet Harestad
Steve & Tami Harvey
Ruth Hecksel
John & Meghan Heritage
Shirley Hipwell
Andrew & Alice Hoban
Albert & Charyn Hoffman
Steve & Joy Hohmeyer
Judith Hooyenga
James & Debra Hovinga
Paul & Diana Hugo
Sherry Jackoboice
Tom & Barb Jackoboice
Mary Jacobson
Nelson & Lana Jacobson
Bari Johnson
Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson
Holly & Erick Johnson
The Hon. Susan & Roger Jonas
Jeff & Kelli Jullie
Jim & Mary Keating
Katy Keck
J. Gregg & Mary Keeton
Joanne Kelley
Kristine Kelley
Barbara Kelso
Janice Kinane
Philip & Jane King
Thomas & Kimberly Kitchen
Kurt & Jennifer Klaassen
Sandy Klaassen
Scott Klaassen
Betsy Kleist
Tom Knight
Robert & Lois Koch
Dr. Raymond & Betsy Komray
Keith & Patricia Konarska
Candy Kraker
Scott & Madonna Kramer
Ken Lahey
Keith & Bernice Lamkin
Thomas & Jacquelin Laughlin
Philip & Betty Leech
Duane Leet
Margaret LeMieux
Robert & Karen Lemmen
Jane Leonard & John Cook
Dale & Lori Lieffers
James MacLachlan
Angelo & Laura Marasco
Josh & Jessica Marcero
Michael & Mari McKeough
Nina McKeough Reed & Mont Reed
Damon & Kimberly McLaughlin
Larry & Anne McLaughlin
Douglas McNeil
Frank & Sandra Mercurio
Dr. Bart & Anne Merkle
Bob & Donnell Mersereau
Jean Mesler
Nancy Middlebrook
Jeffrey Miller & Margot Van Dis
Dr. James Moore & Patricia Eddington Moore
Dr. Arianna Morales & Stacey Cassis
Darell & Phyllis Moreland
Steve & Sandra Moreland
Dr. Donald Moss
Peter & Sheila Murdoch
Charles & Nancy Nagtzaam
John & Kathryn Nash
Raymond & Barbara Nelson
Vicki Olafson
Matthew & Kathryne Olds
Greg & Jeanine Oleszczuk
Ruthann Olthoff
Dr. Kevin & Patricia O'Neill
Roy Overway
Timothy & Jill Parker
Eileen & Dan Paull
Elizabeth Peel
Steve Pekich
Anita Pellegrom
Marsha Peterson
John & Mary Planteroth
Dr. Larry Poel
Coreen Porter
The Hon. Edward & Barbara Post
Shirley Poulton
Joseph & Nancy Prinzi
Robert & Andrea Rander
Bill & Aileen Redeker
John Field Reichardt
Thomas & Gretchen Reinsma
Rosanne Reiss
Dr. Gary Robertson
David Rolstone & Virginia Dornbos Rolstone
Dr. Lloyd Rotz
Dr. Sylvia & Ron Ruscett
Robert & Roberta Sabine
Daniel & Carol Scanlan
James Schmidt & Karen West
Carol Scholler
David Seaver
Ken & Sandra Sharkey
William & Susan Shattuck
John Shears
Mary Sheridan
B.P. "Budge" Sherwood
Karen Sherwood
Karen Shields
Dorothy Sikkema
Terry & Val Sikma
Gerald & Linda Slagel
Robert Sluka
Gary & Jorri Smith
Julie Smydra
Michael Snodgrass & Linda Shores
Rev. Rick & Mary Ann Snyder
Marlene Spoelman
Lawrence & Helen Stephanie Staab
Tyler Stafford
Alma Statema
Jim & Sheila Steffel
Kent & Bonnie Suchecki
Ruth Suchecki
Dennis & Carol Swartout
Dr. Dan & Ann Tabor
Jim & Ruth Tanis
Philip & Mary Kay Taylor
James Teitsma
Kenneth & Mary Terpstra
Guy & Alisha Terrill
Judy Theune
Joseph & Carol Uridil
Donna VandenBerg
John Vander Kooi
Marianne VanEenenaam
Dale & Susan VanZantwick
Ron & Beth Veldman
Elinore "Norna" Verplank
Kyle & Samantha Verplank
Tony & Monica Verplank
Jean Verseput
Robert & Deborah Wagenmaker
David Walborn
Ruth Wallinga
Dr. Walter & Daphne Weber
Rev. Randy & Sally Weener
Amy West
Andrew Wheeler
David & Mary Whiting
Terri Whiting
Annette Whitney
Warren & Nancy Wildeman
Leslie Wills
David & Karen Young
Rosemary Zink
Michael & Sasha Zolik
Douglas & Janice Zuidema
Marian Zupin