



Ionia County

community foundation

An affiliated fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation

The ICCF Report

Making Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play

AWARD GRANTS TO 17 AREA NON-PROFITS

The Ionia County Community Foundation (ICCF) is pleased to award 17 grants for a total of \$29,000 to local non-profit 501C3 organizations for 2019.

In addition, the ICCF will fund the final \$10,000 installment of a \$50,000/5 year impact grant to the **Sparrow-Ionia Hospital Foundation**.

The **Ionia County Sheriff's Office** has been awarded \$5,000 for its Active Violence Response Task Force. A grant of \$3,125 will help **Freedom Acres School** create a sensory room. And the ICCF has allocated \$3,000 to **Feeding America West Michigan** to support mobile food pantries in Ionia County.

Manna's Market has been granted \$2,000 for food, clothing, toiletries and baby pantry items; Ionia Area Hospice, with Hospice of Lansing, have received a \$1,300 grant to support its "We Honor Veterans" project.

2019 grants to the Ionia County Intermediate School District will support important ongoing projects, including \$2,800 for the Great Start Collaborative's Ionia County "**Transition to Kindergarten Backpack**" program; \$3,500 for the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**; and \$1,500 for the **IM Kids 3rd Meal program**.

An ICCF grant of \$1,279 will also assist the **ICISD** with the installation of a water bottle filling station.

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Hour of Impact

Raises Several Thousand Dollars; Many Gather to Make Grants Possible Throughout Ionia County.



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ICCF Mission Statement

Making Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play

James E. McCarty

Ionia County Community Foundation

Sara Badgero

PFCU

Janet Balice

Ionia County Literacy Council

Bruce Chadwick

Ionia County Community Foundation

Thomas D. Dickinson CPA/CFP

Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson & Dickinson, C.P.A.s

Kimberley Doane

Ionia County Community Foundation

Boomer Hoppough

Independent Bank

Ethan Ebenstein

Ionia County Intermediate School District

Suzanne Hoseth Kreeger

Circuit Court Judge

Jason Mellema

Ingham Intermediate School District

Dr. Greg Patera

Grand Rapids Ophthalmology

Hailie Patterson

Michigan One Community Credit Union

Brian Talbot

Mercantile Bank

Tim Walling

Ionia County Community Foundation

Ryan Wilson

Michigan One Community Credit Union

Emeriti:

Daniel Balice
Jerry Collison
James Fast
Judge David Hoort
George Hubbard
Robert Kjolhede
Ron Story
Roger Wills

**Belding • Clarksville
Hubbardston
Ionia • Lake Odessa
Lyons • Muir
Orleans • Palo
Pewamo • Portland
Saranac**

ICCF GRANTS AWARDED *continued*

ICCF grants to Ionia Public Schools will help fund video technology upgrades at **Ionia High School** (\$1,800) and the Robotics program at **Emerson Elementary** (\$695).

Saranac Community Schools will use an \$800 grant to build student collaboration skills and to support student learning. Saranac Public Library has been granted \$400 to provide magnifying devices for public use.

The Ionia County Historical Society was allocated \$1,000 for Blanchard House access improvements; and the Portland Area Historical Society was awarded \$800 towards historical document and photography preservation.

Two grants were approved from the Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund. The **Ionia County YMCA**, a branch of the Greater Grand Rapids YMCA, received \$1,900 to provide free water safety programs for third grade students from Ionia Public Schools. **SS Peter and Paul School** was awarded \$500 to enable third grade students to participate in the Ionia YMCA Safety Program.

ICCF President Jim McCarty is excited the Ionia County Community Foundation (ICCF) is able once again to empower local organizations to advance their respective communities and residents.



More than 50 quilts were made to raise funds for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, all made in the theme of the children's picture book "Pete the Cat". Culminating with a late March raffle drawing, the fund-raiser featured sales of the quilts on a first come-first-served basis. Pictured at left is Kim Reed who purchased her quilt beautifully made by Sharon VanWelde shown at right.

McCarty commended the excellent work of the Grant Committee and shared these thoughts: "The ICCF marks its 24th anniversary in 2019," he noted. "It is a joy to continue to fund projects and programs that do so much good for the citizens of Ionia County. We are very pleased to award these grants to so many fine organizations throughout our Ionia County communities."

According to Grant Committee Chairman Brian Talbot, "This latest cycle of grant-making brings total allocations from unrestricted funds to 501©3 non-profits to more than \$830,000 since the ICCF endowment program was established in the fall of 1995."

When all component funds under the ICCF umbrella are included, the aggregate amount of grant distributions into Ionia County tops \$3 million!

Landon Griffiden, 22-month grandson of Cheryl Granzo, is shown reading his brand new Dolly Parton Imagination Library Book to his stuffed dog. Granzo is Director of Early Childhood Programs at the Ionia County Intermediate School District.

**For good.
For ever.™**

Ionia County Community Foundation board representatives Hailie Patterson (left), Appreciation and Events Committee Chair and Ryan Wilson (right), Communications Committee Chair, present a box of goodies from SoZo's to Mercantile South Side Bank Branch Manager Ann Martinez and associate Nicole Helmes. The gesture was in acknowledgment and gratitude for the outstanding and gracious hospitality shown by Meridian for many years of hosting ICCF Board Meetings.



An “Hour of Impact” Fund Raising Breakfast attracted a large crowd interested in learning more about the Ionia County Community Foundation and helping to support its mission.

Held at the Ionia County Intermediate School District, the event started a bit inauspiciously when the lights and power went out just prior to the start of the ceremonies. Nevertheless, the agenda went forward without missing a beat and the many attendees were treated to good food, enjoyable fellowship, and positive information regarding the impact made in our county by the foundation.

Headlining the morning was former Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley who shared that Ionia County is certainly “one of those special places in Michigan where people help themselves rather than waiting for others to do it for them.”

“Ionia County is full of dedicated people who seek to create an environment for success now and into the future,” said Calley. “The Ionia County Community Foundation is one of those vehicles that enables successful people such as you people gathered here this morning to make a difference in our communities that will last and impact our neighborhoods long after we are gone.”

Several thousands of dollars were raised for ICCF during the hour of impact all designed to help grow the fund and enabling more dollars to be granted to assist non-profit organizations throughout the County.

ICCF Vice President Tom Dickinson highlighted that the foundation, now 24 years old” is “For Good. For Ever” and that over \$800,000 has been allocated to organizations county-wide so that lives can be changed for the better.

President Jim McCarty noted that when all of the component funds under our umbrella are included the aggregate amount of distributions into the county is over \$3 Million.

Our Mission is “Making Ionia County a better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play. Thank you so much for coming out this morning to make that happen!

Those sponsoring the Hour of Impact breakfast and offsetting all of the expenses were: James Klein, D.D.S.; Independent Bank; PFCU; Michigan One Community Credit Union; Mercantile Bank and Doane Insurance Agency.



Hour of Impact



The Ron & Margaret Story Legacy Society was established in 2010 to pay tribute to the couple for their charitable bequest and financial contributions to ICCF, as well as for their time, talent, and efforts given to it over the years.

Please join Ron and Margaret in remembering the Ionia County Community Foundation in your estate plan.

The Ron & Margaret Story Society is designed to honor those of you who are creating your own legacies through planned gifts. As a member of it, you will be recognized in a special way in our newsletter and other materials.

If you have already included the Ionia County Community Foundation in your will or estate plan (or if and when you do) please contact our development staff (616-642-6435) so we can add you to our special society.

Following are our Current Legacy Society Members:

- Daniel and Janet Balice**
- Bruce and Margaret Chadwick**
- Thomas D. and Tamara S. Dickinson**
- William and Jewel Eckstrom**
- Boomer and Laurie Hoppough**
- Gary and Janeen Lemke**
- Jim and Teresa McCarty**
- Deanne Prince**
- Ron and Margaret Story**
- Lowell and Judy Swartz**
- Brian and Mindy Talbot**
- Elaine VanLaanen**
- Alona Allen, Barbara Allen**
- Kruis, John Kruis**

Honorary Memorial Members
(Story Legacy Society members who have passed away)

- Paul and Alberta Allen**
- Chapin, Melvin and Rathburn Laux**
- Ed and Maxine Compagner**
- Mary Esther Daddazio**
- George Eddy**
- Frost, Bird and Burger**
- Don and Emma Goodell**
- Chuck Henney**
- Bea McCarty**
- Kenneth and Shirley Morris**
- Walter Sprague**
- Ben and Lucy Simons**
- Ward VanLaanen**

We apologize for any omissions on this list. To add a name please contact Jim McCarty at (616) 642-6435.



ETHAN EBENSTEIN

ICCF Welcomes New board member: ETHAN EBENSTEIN

Ionia County Community Foundation names Ebenstein to Advisory Board

Ethan Ebenstein, superintendent of the Ionia County Intermediate School District, has been appointed to the Advisory Board for the Ionia County Community Foundation.

During his career as an educator, administrator and superintendent, Ebenstein has been a dedicated community volunteer and leader.

Joining the Ionia County Community Foundation continues his legacy as a servant leader.

“I believe strongly in servant leadership and look forward to working with my colleagues and friends on the Ionia County Community Foundation to help meet the needs and improve the lives of the people in the communities we serve together,” Ebenstein shared.

“I have been able to experience firsthand through various initiatives and programs the impact that a group of caring, passionate individuals can have on a community,” he said. “The people I have met and interacted with in my first months in Ionia County have been dynamic and I am eager to give back and help the community to the best of my abilities.”

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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL GRANTS \$8,200

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 GRANTS FROM THE ICCF YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC) FUND INCLUDE:

*\$525 to Ionia Public Schools for a Special Education Year-end Awards Banquet to recognize and acknowledge students for their academic and leadership success during their school year.

*\$580 to “Artists Creating Together” to fund the annual Art Festival for Special Education students with disabilities at Lowell Area Schools.

*750 to Belding Area Schools for the Vegetable Growing Outreach Initiative connecting High School students with elementary students to produce food, to enhance nutrition and physical activity while supporting the community.

*\$995 to Belding High School to reduce the number of students that are currently vaping within the school building.

*\$1,000 to the ISD for the IM Kids 3rd Meal Program to provide an evening meal for food insecure children Monday-Friday.

*\$500 to the Ionia County ISD for a Water Bottle Fill Station Project to purchase a water bottle fill station to encourage students to hydrate properly throughout the day.

*\$1,000 To the Ionia County ISD for the Michigan Youth Leadership Training Camp to provide teen leadership training to enhance their leadership skills to become impactful leaders in their communities.

*\$1,000 to the Ionia County ISD for the Strive 2 Arrive Alive (S2AA) Program to provide teen driver safety education.

*\$1,000 to the Ionia County Juvenile Court Youth Service Bureau to allow youth who experience trauma, poverty or other hardships move past these obstacles to create healthy adult relationships.

*\$850 to Ronald McDonald House of West Michigan for the Family Support Program which provides food, lodging and support services at no cost for families from Ionia County while they seek treatment for their children in Grand Rapids.



DREW WARD

Upon graduating from Saranac High School this month, Drew Ward will soon be heading out to New Haven, Connecticut to continue his education at the prestigious Ivy League school of Yale University.

Accepted into Yale on a full scholarship, Ward, has been a four-year member of the Ionia County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council and credits that group in helping him to develop into the well-rounded and successful person he is today.

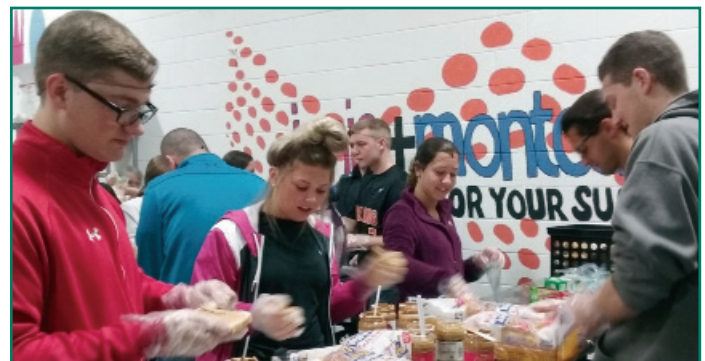
At Yale, Ward plans to study Psychology and Computer Science. Among his high school activities and achievements at Saranac are serving as Mayor of the Student Council, a member of the National Honor Society, a four-year starter on the football team, two years on the baseball team, a participant on the wrestling team, and a volunteer with the kids third meal program to help provide daily meals for children who sometimes don't get enough to eat at home.

Following are some thoughts and comments by Drew Ward on how he has been influenced by his four-years of experience and leadership with ICCF's Youth Advisory Committee:

“When I entered YAC in my freshman year, I was searching for role models who could guide me through a tumultuous time in my life, and who would subsequently serve as my teachers and mentors in my academic and personal arenas. Thankfully, the group provided me with many visible peer leaders who exhibited great character and were often outgoing and amiable. They helped to shape my path for the next four years and hopefully for the years to come.

The group's goal of providing the youth of Ionia County with resources to encourage academic and personal success was one I found to be endearing. During the past four years, YAC has provided many hours of community service and designated tens of thousands of dollars in grant funds to local organizations servicing the youth of our county.

I too, have had the opportunity to give of myself to my community and have received in turn an education in philanthropy, kindness and altruism. I thank the YAC group for helping shape me into the person that I am today and for pushing me outside of my comfortable limits. I plan to continue my development as a person as I pursue higher education at Yale University.”



Once again, the Ionia County Community Foundation was selected as a recipient of the Michigan One Community Credit Union Year-End Bonuses. One of 48 non-profits to be honored, ICCF was recognized for its efforts and service in addressing hunger and food delivery needs for Ionia County families.

M1 awarded \$24,000 to the various schools and organizations boosting the total awarded over the ten-year program to more than \$210,000. “This is indeed our tenth year of issuing these bonuses,” said M1 Credit Union CEO Tim Hemenway. “But year after year the excitement never fades. These year-end bonuses demonstrate M1's commitment to our communities and helping those in need.”



Ionia County Community Foundation Board members proudly present a \$10,000 check as yet another pledge payment toward their \$50,000 commitment in support of the new Sparrow Ionia Hospital. Several members of the hospital board and staff are pictured accepting the check. In appreciation, hospital representatives thanked ICCF “for their dedication to the health of our community.”

ETHAN EBENSTEIN

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Prior to being named ICISD superintendent, Ebenstein served as superintendent of Comstock Park Public Schools for 10 years; he was also superintendent in his hometown district, White Cloud High School, for several years where he also worked as an elementary teacher, principal, and coach.

Ebenstein earned his bachelor of arts degree at Aquinas College and his masters in educational leadership at Grand Valley State University. He and his wife, Julie, have two sons, Trevor, a junior in high school, and Logan, a sophomore at GRCC.

In addition to educational committees on curriculum, discipline, and school improvement, Ebenstein has participated on numerous community committees and organizations, including United Way of Lakeshore-Newaygo County, Boy Scouts of America, Rotary, Comstock Park DDA, Comstock Park Educational Foundation, Salvation Army, Alpine Township Business Association, and others. He is also a member of the Ionia County Economic Alliance.

Welcoming the newest ICCF Advisory Board member, ICCF President Jim McCarty said, “We are very pleased to welcome Ethan Ebenstein to our Ionia County Community Foundation Advisory Committee Board. He will be a very strong addition to our team as together we seek to make Ionia County an even better place to live, learn, work and play.”

Why give to ICCF?

A Case for Support

A combination of donors, grantees and board members gathered for a round-table discussion to share insights and opinions regarding their perceptions of the effectiveness of the Ionia County Community Foundation and the services that it provides.

Facilitated by a fund raising consulting firm, the meeting resulted in the development of a Case for Support document that will serve as a basis for ICCF fund raising efforts going forward. The overriding focus of the initiative is to highlight and identify reasons for supporting the community foundation and the resulting life- changing outcomes and benefits for the citizens of Ionia County.

Here are a few excerpts and takeaways from the Case for Support:

A community foundation is a lot like a garden plant, like a lily that keeps on growing and spreading as long as the main lily plant remains intact. People who give to a community foundation are creating a “plant” – a pool of money that gets invested into an endowment. As only the interest earned from the endowment is granted to support projects and important needs around the county, the original endowment – the plant – remains intact and grows and is available for more grant-making year after year after year.

Ionia County is full of warm-hearted, generous people. They want to give back... and for their dollars to stay in the county... and for them to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. The Ionia County Community Foundation makes that possible by providing grant monies to non-profit organizations throughout the County.

When individuals donate to ICCF, the endowment becomes larger, and more interest income is earned, which increases the grant-making pot. Since its inception 23 years ago in 1995, the Ionia County Community Foundation has poured over \$3 million back into our neighborhoods to assist local programs throughout our county.

The Ionia County Community Foundation mission is to make Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play. People who give to it know that their dollars will continue to generate good for our communities year after year. When each person contributes what they can, transformative things happen. Some result in county-wide impact; others meet specific local needs. All of them change lives for the better

And all are possible because ordinary people give to a shared fund that makes their community a better place to live.

Our Donors – Meeting County-wide Needs!

Listed below are all who made contributions to our unrestricted endowment fund during the calendar year January 1, 2019-December 31, 2018. We want to recognize and thank them for their support as they are sharing a vision to make Ionia County an even better place to live, learn, work and play. (Those who sponsored our 21st Annual Golf Outing in 2018 were highlighted in our fall newsletter). Together we are creating “A Legacy of Caring” that will last forever!

For good. For ever.™

Loren & Marilyn Adgate
Mr. and Mrs. William and Sara Badgero
Janet Balice and Daniel Balice
Dean & Mary Barker
Virgil and Connie Biggs
Biggs, Haussersman, Thompson & Dickinson
Boucher Family Dentistry, PLLC
Rick and Nancy Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burkhardt
Bill and Frances Carr
Jeff & Linda Caudell
Bruce & Margaret Chadwick
Jerry Collison
Fred and Patti Cooreman
Tom & Tammy Dickinson
Divine Auto Body & Glass, Inc.

Mark and Kim Doane
Jason and Patricia Eppler
Mr. & Mrs. James Fast
Jane and Tim Hemenway
Gail and Terry Herbruck
James & Linda Hill
George & Denise Hubbard
Jim & Diana Huckle
Dean & Jean Hyde
Terry and Beth Jungel
Bob and Patti Kjolhede
Lyle, Cathie, and Max A. Koss
Kurt & Suzanne Kreeger
Aaron Kroemer, DDS/
Saranac Dental Care
Gary & Janeen Lemke
Mrs. Deloris L. Leppink
Les's Sanitary Service
Allen & Joan MacDonald
Michael & Rebecca Magee

R. Ross Matthews
Jim and Teresa McCarty
McFadden Law Office, PLLC
Jason and Molly Mellema
Michigan One Community Credit Union
Constance E. Milhem and Richard J. Milhem
Ron and Betty Nelson
Gary and Darlene Newell
Mrs. Mary Evelyn O'Connor (Mrs. Rex)
Barb Parks
Dr. Greg & Pastor Nancy Patera
William T. & Norene K. Peterman
Sandborn Real Estate
Dr. Gerald L. Segerlind
DVM

Seymour Furniture
Shattuck Farms
Robert & Diana Sherburn
Anonymous
Jim and Judy Stark
Lynn and Keith Sterner
Roberta Sterner
Ron & Margaret Story
The Honorable Robert S. Sykes, Jr. & Mrs. Laurie M. Sykes
Larry & Nadine Tiejema
VanLoan Charitable Fund
Ted & Carol Van Loo
Tim & Bobbette Walling
Elinor Weisgerber
Mr. Michael Wojcik
WP Wolbers-Possehn Pools, Ponds & Landscapes, Inc.

A thank you letter was mailed recently to those who made donations to the ICCF unrestricted fund during 2018. It noted that many individuals are committed to making Ionia County a better place to Live, Learn, Work and Play and listed the organizations that were awarded grants during the current grant cycle.

Included was a statement that indicated that the combination of these gifts and interest from endowment earnings allowed for over \$31,000 to be granted to a long list of Ionia County non-profits. When people contribute transformative things can happen and lives can be changed for the better. Thank you for your continued support!

- Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry • Freedom Acres Sensory Room
- Transition to Kindergarten Backpacks (All Ionia County Schools)
- Hospice Honoring Veterans • Ionia County Historical Society
- ISD Kids 3rd Meal Program • Ionia High School Water Bottle Fill Station
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library • Ionia High School Video Technology Upgrades
- Ionia County Sherriff Active Violence Response Task Force
- Emerson Elementary Robotics • Manna's Market
- Portland Area Historical Society • Saranac EDU Boxes
- Third Grade YMCA Water Safety Program

ICCF - Positively Impacting How We Live, Work and Play

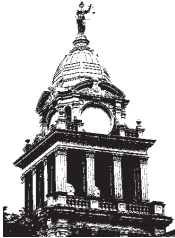


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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

A summary of the market value of investments in the various accounts is as follows:

Fund Balance as of March 31, 2019

ICCF Fund.....	\$ 1,060,696
ICCF Fund – Youth Fund.....	\$ 177,427
ICCF Administrative Fund.....	\$ 6,942
Belding Education Fund.....	\$ 107,329
Belding Schools Fund – Frost Renaissance Foundation.....	\$ 282,867
Belding Schools Fund – Bird Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 100,564
Belding Schools Fund – Burger Fund.....	\$ 55,972
Compagner Memorial Fund.....	\$ 1,072,768
Eddy Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 680,752
Kenneth and Shirley Morris Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 697,001
George Romney Fund – Enrich of Ionia County Volunteer Center.....	\$ 75,820
Healthy Youth and Healthy Seniors.....	\$ 56,807
Chuck Henney Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 55,127
Ionia County Parks Preservation & Maintenance Fund.....	\$ 145,372
Lakewood Educational Foundation Fund.....	\$ 383,899
Simons Memorial Education Fund.....	\$ 577,017
Saranac Community Schools Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 298,154
WW Sprague Family Fund.....	\$ 285,700
Ionia Public Schools Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 1,101,517
Ionia Free Fair Fund.....	\$ 148,429
Paul and Alberta Allen Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 114,297
Don and Emma Goodell Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 131,386
Ward and Elaine VanLaanen Teaching Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 61,934
William R. and Jewel H. Eckstrom Helping Hand Fund.....	\$ 105,239
William R. and Jewell H. Eckstrom Future Teacher Scholarship.....	\$ 52,055
Swartz Family Fund.....	\$ 67,248
Alvah N Belding Library Fund.....	\$ 75,706
The Belrockton Fund.....	\$ 54,209
Portland Community Fund.....	\$ 27,672
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Fund.....	\$ 91,261
Saranac Community Schools Promise Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 264,406
Total	\$ 8,395,570

PHILANTHROPY: THE GIVING AND SHARING OF TIME, TALENT, OR TREASURE INTENDED FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

It's not how much you give; it's the giving that matters. Every donation to the Ionia County Community Foundation is a voice of support for the programs that make our communities wonderful places to live. As a publicly supported foundation, our grants touch nearly every aspect of our well-being – promoting academic achievement, neighborhood revitalization, health, human services, the arts, as well as economic prosperity and environmental integrity.

Support the Community Foundation and you will invest in the opportunity to make our communities great now and for generations to come.