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Newsletter of the
Lucy R. Allen
Cornerstone Club

Saginaw Community Foundation

Fall 2012



New grant program aims to improve community

Mahatma Gandhi said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

With the new Board of Directors Community Improvement Initiative, the Saginaw Community Foundation is encouraging people to collaborate to create the changes they want to see in their communities.

The Board of Directors Community Improvement Initiative is a new grant program at the foundation. Each year, the program will grant \$25,000 to a selected project in Saginaw County. An additional \$5,000 can be earned if the initial grant is matched.

“We want this community improvement initiative to be a funding vehicle that will enable us to be more proactive in addressing community improvement needs,” said President and CEO René Johnston. “We want to encourage the community to create and implement community improvement initiatives on their own.”

In order to effectively implement this project, the foundation worked with its board of directors to define “community improvement.”

“For this program, a community improvement initiative will be defined as a project that will create indelible, measurable impacts in the immediate and broader community,” Johnston said. “These projects need to be supported and planned by a broad range of users ranging from businesses to governmental entities to neighborhoods and individuals.”

This initiative extends beyond existing charitable organizations, churches, schools and county/city officials. Individuals, community groups, neighborhoods, businesses and youth groups can apply if they utilize the foundation as a fiscal agent. New and existing community projects are eligible.

The first recipient of this grant was the Deindorfer Woods Park restoration project.

The application for the 2013 Community Improvement Initiative will become available on Jan. 1, 2013. Applications must be sent to the foundation by Feb. 1, 2013.



Giving Back:

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds help address a broad range of local needs — including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

The Saginaw Community Foundation currently houses more than 20 unrestricted funds.

Because restrictions are not set on the use of unrestricted fund gifts, it enables the Saginaw Community Foundation to do what it does best — assess community needs and respond by awarding grants to the nonprofit organizations that undertake our community’s most critical work.

We evaluate all aspects of community well-being: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization and more.

To start an unrestricted fund, you can make a bequest or give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate or other assets. Your fund will be endowed at SCF, serving as a source of community capital. Earnings gained through investments are used to make grants that address important needs in Saginaw County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



If you would like to know more about unrestricted funds at the Saginaw Community Foundation, contact Brian Jackson at (989) 755-0545.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



“

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The season of change

Fall is upon us, and signs of change are developing quickly. The falling temperatures, the color of the leaves and even the clothes in our closets signal that a different season has arrived.

Regardless of the season, the Saginaw Community Foundation is aware of the changes around us and preparing for the future. Last winter, the Saginaw Community Foundation Board of Directors voted in support of a community improvement initiative. This initiative will focus on the efforts of the community at large to prepare the Saginaw County community for the future.

In the past, the foundation has assisted volunteer groups in making improvements and enhancements to the landscape of the community. Community-based groups — such as Friends of Hoyt Park, Deindorfer Woods Neighborhood Association and Kochville Township — took initiative to make their communities a better place. In fact, the true inspiration for the Board of Directors Community Improvement Initiative was the collaborative neighborhood revitalization project with The Dow Chemical Company, Habitat for Humanity and our region's community foundations.

Annually, the foundation will set aside \$30,000 to challenge the community to identify community improvement activities. This new initiative will help us proactively address community improvement needs in Saginaw County. It also will encourage each community to take things into their own hands.

The long-term goal is to broaden awareness of the foundation's role in the community. Also, if this initiative stimulates other funders to do something similar or leverage our efforts by giving matching funds, it can help the foundation stretch its dollars toward further community improvement.

Just as our donors look to the foundation to put their donations back into the community, the foundation is looking to the community at large to help put that money to good use with the Board of Directors Community Improvement Initiative. Just like the seasons, change is inevitable. It is up to us, as a community, to take initiative, collaborate and make the changes we want to see in Saginaw County.

Renee S. Johnston
President & CEO



Recognizing our philanthropists and volunteers for their service

Our philanthropists and volunteers work hard to build our community. The Saginaw Community Foundation honors its outstanding philanthropists and volunteers each year at the Annual Celebration in June.

Joe Madison was honored with the Frank N. Andersen Spirit of Philanthropy Award, which was established in 1994 in honor of the great philanthropist.

“The purpose of the award was to honor an individual who has a history of outstanding philanthropic leadership and has demonstrated an extraordinary personal commitment to improving the quality of life for Saginaw County citizens,” said René Johnston, president and CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation. “We also wanted to encourage and recognize philanthropy in Saginaw County.”

Madison served on the SCF Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, the Building Search Committee and the Asset

Development/Marketing Committee. He also was the FORCE Coordinator and was instrumental in coordinating 10 Make A Difference Day youth and volunteer service activities.

“Joe joined the foundation’s board in 2000,” Johnston said. “With everything he was involved with over the past 12 years, we probably should have hired him as a member of the SCF staff.”

Madison serves on the Bridge Center for Racial Harmony committee, Saginaw Township Community School’s Foundation board and the fundraising committee for the Saginaw Promise.

Past recipients of this award include Frank N. Andersen, Richard Wolohan, Wally Bronner, Lloyd Yeo, Ted Braun, the Shaheen family, Marty Stark, Sue Pumford, Paul Chaffee, Culli Damuth and Gen. David Hall.

Nicholas Gorney, a recent graduate from Swan Valley High School, was awarded the SCF Youth Award.



“Four years ago, we thought it would be appropriate to identify and recognize youth in our community for their tremendous efforts to make a difference,” Johnston said. “The SCF Youth Award criteria is based on qualities of outstanding philanthropic spirit, cooperation with others, and generosity of time and talent.”

Gorney, nominated by Kay Wejrowski at Swan Valley High School, is known for volunteering his time to improve his school and help other students.

Rob Baker from Frankenth High School was recognized with the Dr. Mridha Teacher of the

Year award. The award, offered through the Mridha Foundation Teacher of the Year Endowment Fund held at the foundation, grants \$750 to the Saginaw Intermediate School District to support the recipient’s educational and professional development.

“If teachers are stimulated, it makes our students even better,” Debasish Mridha said. “I want to honor teachers who go beyond their duty to inspire and instill wisdom and vision so students can go back into the community and do good.”



Foundation launches new website

The Saginaw Community Foundation recently launched a new website, designed to better serve you. Features on the new website include resource centers for donors and professional advisors, detailed information about the foundation, detailed information about grant programs and a blog.

If you have feedback regarding the new website, contact Rachel Esterline Perkins at (989) 755-0545 or rachel@saginawfoundation.org.

Fueling a passion

Fund helps keep young dancers in class

The Nancy Claramunt Dance Foundation Fund was recently set up by Morrall and Nancy Claramunt to help support young dancers. Recently, three young dancers in the region received funds to help support their passion.

Nancy Claramunt said she started dancing at age three.

"It has led me to many opportunities, working and judging Junior Miss Pageants and competitions, and just enjoying the efforts and love young dancers have," she said. "I've helped support several causes involved with dance but felt there could be a need

to help young dancers get started or keep from dropping out because of financial circumstances."

Though she knows the funds can't cover all expenses for young dancers, she hopes it can take some of the financial pressure off parents.

"I know we are starting on somewhat of a small scale, but hope there will be enough participation and interest in this program to grow," she said. "Hopefully, this idea will spread and spark the interest in others to also step in and support dancers, music programs, etc., that is so good for character building and expression."

The Claramunt's decided to set up their fund at the Saginaw Community Foundation due to Morrall's experience as a board member.

"Morrall was on the board and had many, many great things to say about the staff and their work, so there was no other discussion," she said. "We are very happy with the handling of this so far."

To learn more about setting up a fund of your own at the Saginaw Community Foundation, contact Brian Jackson at (989) 755-0545 or brian@saginawfoundation.org.

Transforming Deindorfer Woods

Restoration of the park put in the hands of the community

Last December, the Consumers Energy Foundation awarded a \$125,000 grant to restore Deindorfer Woods Park — contingent upon matching grants. The matching funds were raised within six months.

The restoration of Deindorfer Woods Park in Saginaw is now complete thanks in part to a Consumers Energy Foundation matching grant, as well as grants from Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company, Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, Citizens Bank, Morley Foundation, Frank N. Andersen Foundation, Allen E. & Marie A. Nickless Memorial Foundation, Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation and Alice E. Turner Memorial Trust.

"The community really rallied around this cause," said René Johnston, CEO and president of the Saginaw Community Foundation. "There are a lot of memories and history in the park."

The \$250,000 in total donations were used to renovate the trails, replace dead trees, add a new playground and put lights, security cameras and a new parking lot into the park.



"This park is one of 10 projects that our company is supporting in communities around the state as we celebrate our 125th anniversary," said David Mengebier, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation. "It symbolizes our commitment to the people and the communities in Michigan we serve."



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Saginaw Community Foundation Staff

Pictured (left to right): LeeAnn Martuch, Reneé Johnston, Kendra Kempf, Rachel Esterline Perkins, Christine Benecke, Lindsay Maynard, Becky Gerzsény, Brian Jackson; AshLee Hansinger (not pictured).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 25 Volunteer Appreciation BBQ
- Nov. 1 Applications are due for:
- Discretionary Grants
 - Senior Citizen Enrichment Fund Grants
 - YWCA Fund for Women & Girls Grants
 - Dow Corning Donor Advised Fund Grants
 - FORCE Youth Advisory Committee Grant
- Nov. 1 Scholarship application opens
- Nov. 1 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarship applications due

For more information, visit saginawfoundation.org



Request to receive your newsletter via email:
(989) 755-0545 or info@saginawfoundation.org



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