



# County Currents

SUMMER 2009

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Barry Hill  
PRESIDENT
- Hal March  
VICE PRESIDENT
- Mollie Wolf  
TREASURER
- Diane Clow  
SECRETARY
- John Barrett
- Michelle Bianchi
- Ryan Dillon  
YOUTH TRUSTEE
- Robert Henthorne
- Les Hutchinson
- Jeff Lantis
- David Pope
- Hon. Michael Nye
- Stan Smith
- Bill Smith
- Bambi Somerlott
- Shawn Vondra

## HCCF Announces Five New Funds

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation is continuing its commitment to promote philanthropy and meet the needs of the people of Hillsdale County with the introduction of five new funds.

The mission of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation is to receive and administer funds for artistic, charitable, educational and scientific purposes for the residents of Hillsdale County, and the Foundation is proud to announce the following new funds:

**The Hillsdale County Dental Clinic Fund** provides financial support for a future public health dental clinic in Hillsdale County.

**The Hillsdale Exchange Club Community Fund** has been established to provide financial support for community projects and programs administered by the Hillsdale Exchange Club.

**The Arthur Fiebig Memorial Fund** has been created in memory of long-standing Hillsdale County community member Arthur Fiebig.

**The Hillsdale Business Association Fund** was established to stimulate trade and improve business conditions in Hillsdale through partnership and networking with members and other local organizations.

**The Daryl McElmurry Memorial Fund** provides support for enrichment programs and other projects aimed at enhancing the quality of education and educational opportunities at Hillsdale Community Schools.

## Elementary Philanthropy Program Continues

**AS PART** of an ongoing effort to introduce the tradition of philanthropy to young people, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation has expanded its Elementary Philanthropy program this year to include eight area schools. The program was taught to third graders at Will Carleton Academy, Gier Elementary in Hillsdale, Camden-Frontier Elementary, Litchfield Elementary North Adams-Jerome Elementary, Williams Elementary in Jonesville, Pittsford Elementary, and Reynolds Elementary in Reading.



*Third graders from Gier Elementary, working diligently on a craft project to be donated to 'Meals on Wheels' clients.*

The Philanthropy program teaches children the core values of respect, honesty,

Continued on bottom of page 2

**2**  
**HCCF Announces Winter Grant Awards**

**3**  
**2009 HCCF Scholarships**

**3**  
**2009 YOUTH Graduates**

**4**  
**HCCF Hosts Hillsdale County College Fair**

# HCCF Announces Winter Grant Awards

**THE HILLSDALE** County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the winter adult and youth grant cycles. A total amount of \$36,592.63 has been awarded to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit the people of Hillsdale County.

**North Adams-Jerome Elementary School** was awarded \$1,557.63 for the Writing Revolution project, which supplies extension resources and activities for an after-school reading and writing program.

\$20,000 was granted to the **Michigan Community Dental Corporation**, in partnership with the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, to support start-up costs for a public health dental clinic in Hillsdale County.

**Hillsdale County Probate Court**

was awarded \$5,000 for rewards, incentives, and assistance for families receiving services through the Hillsdale County Family Treatment Court. The Court was also granted \$4,000 for incentives and rewards for participants in the Juvenile Drug Court.

\$750 was awarded to **Waldron Area Schools**, to fund the cost of a color printer and toners for the district's recently upgraded computer lab.

**Waldron Area Schools** was also granted \$500 to assist with the costs of a fifth grade overnight trip to Kimball Camp to participate in an outdoor education program. Students learned about ecological concepts and participate in various team building events.

\$4,765 was awarded to the **Hillsdale Community Library**, to fund program costs for the 2009 "Hillsdale County Reads" program. The funds

were awarded to cover the costs purchasing approximately 250 books, refreshments for the kick-off coffee, the purchase of the movie "The Pursuit of Happyness," the printing of promotional materials, and costs associated with the "Framework for Understanding Poverty" presentation.

## Online Giving Available

**PLEASE** visit our website, [www.abouthccf.org](http://www.abouthccf.org), to learn of the many giving opportunities available. HCCF now offers a secure, confidential online giving option.

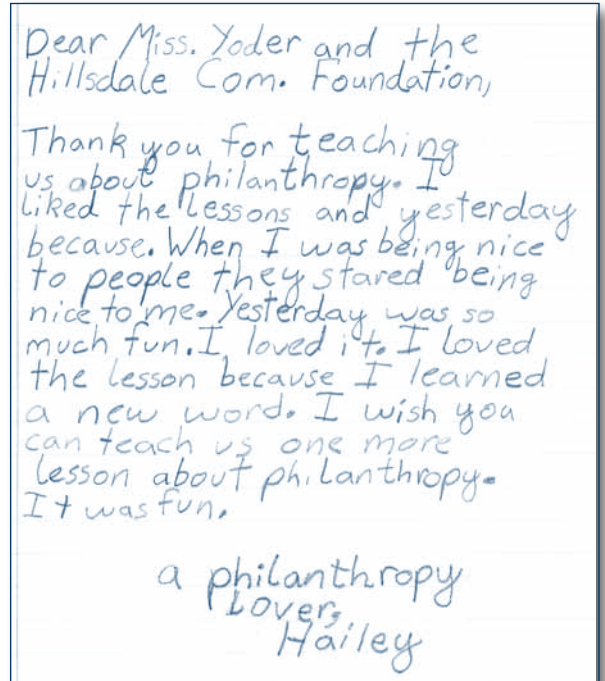
## Special Thanks to Hillsdale College

**HCCF** would like to extend a special thanks to Hillsdale College and Professor Susan King for their assistance with two recent projects. The Foundation was aided by a group of students from the marketing class with conducting a donor survey, and an advertising class group took on a project dealing with recommendations for HCCF's advertising plan.

### Elementary Philanthropy continued from page 2

responsibility, caring, giving and serving. The students learn the meaning of philanthropy, discuss the actions of philanthropy and are encouraged to develop a plan of their own and "pass on" the concept of helping others. The students have learned to use their time, talent and treasure to serve the common good of the community.

As a conclusion to the program, students from all schools participated in community service projects throughout the month of May. The Foundation plans to continue this program for 2009, with the addition of another school.



A letter of thanks from a Williams Elementary student

## 2009 HCCF Scholarships

**ONCE** again, the Foundation saw a tremendous increase in requests to our Scholarship program. We saw a 6 percent increase in applications which were due in our office March 1st. The Foundation currently holds 81 scholarship funds from which students can apply for assistance. In 2009, the Foundation is anticipating scholarship awards in the amount of around \$143,000 to area students to assist with their educational endeavors. Please look for our full page ad in the Hillsdale Daily News in July for a full listing of scholarship award winners.

## We Want To Hear From You!

**HCCF** strives to maintain an accurate database for all of our donors and community supporters. If you have any changes to your contact information, please let us know. Also, as we move toward a "greener" and more cost-effective approach to our communications, please inform us if you would like to receive correspondence from us electronically by providing your email address. Please contact Amber at [a.yoder@abouthccf.org](mailto:a.yoder@abouthccf.org) to be included in electronic mailings.

## 2009 YOUTH Graduates



Mario Carrizales Brent Dickinson Ryan Dillon Larry Kimball Jessica Ruder

**FIVE OF** the YOUTH's most valuable members will be graduating from high school this year and will be pursuing their individual goals and dreams.

**Mario Carrizales**, representing Hillsdale Community Schools, will be attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College, where he will major in History Education.

**Brent Dickinson**, representing Camden-Frontier Schools, will be attending Jackson Community College to major in Computer Networking.

**Ryan Dillon**, representing Reading Area Schools, will be attending Adrian College, where he will major in Business.

**Larry Kimball**, representing Hillsdale Community Schools, will be attending Taylor University, where he will major in English Education or Professional Writing.

**Jessica Ruder**, representing Pittsford Area Schools, plans to attend Spring Arbor University or Alma College, and will be majoring in Health and Exercise Science.

## Simpson Foundation Grants

**UNTIL 1991**, the Simpson Foundation operated as a private family foundation. In 1991, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation was formed, and, through various discussions, the Simpson Foundation proposed to commit their entire income flow to the Community Foundation for grant making and endowment building.

The Simpson Foundation continues to be a grant making organization, supporting our community in many ways. The following organizations were recently granted funding through the Simpson Foundation Fund:

**Hillsdale Dental Clinic:** \$10,000 to support start-up costs for a public health dental clinic in Hillsdale County.

**Community Action Agency:** \$5,000 to provide critical unmet needs assistance to residents of Hillsdale County.

**Hillsdale Area Men With Vision:** \$5,000 to assist with funding for supplies needed to facilitate handyman/carpentry projects for those in our community with needs that cannot be met otherwise.

## MEET THE STAFF

**Sharon Bisher**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[s.bisher@abouthccf.org](mailto:s.bisher@abouthccf.org)

**Susan Stout**  
PROGRAM OFFICER

[s.stout@abouthccf.org](mailto:s.stout@abouthccf.org)

**Amber Yoder**  
YOUTH & MARKETING  
COORDINATOR

[a.yoder@abouthccf.org](mailto:a.yoder@abouthccf.org)

We invite you to share your thoughts about the Foundation with any of our knowledgeable and helpful staff. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time!



**Hillsdale County**  
community foundation<sup>SM</sup>

P.O. Box 276  
2 South Howell Street  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
517.439.5101 **PHONE**  
517.439.5109 **FAX**  
info@abouthccf.org **EMAIL**  
www.abouthccf.org **WEB**

For **good.** For **ever.**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLDWATER MI  
PERMIT NO. 71

## HCCF Hosts Hillsdale County College Fair

**LAST** October, over 40 college and universities from the tri-state area, as well as several armed forces representatives, came to the Roche Sports Complex on the campus of Hillsdale College. College-bound individuals had the chance to speak with and receive information from the attending representatives. Over 500 students and parents attended this highly successful event.

The College Fair was also the first opportunity for those interested in scholarships administered by the Foundation to acquire the 2009 Scholarship Book and application information. The Scholarship Book outlines all available scholarships and their respective application and eligibility requirements.



Along with the Foundation, this event was sponsored by GEM Asset Management, County National Bank, Osbourne, March, Condon & Co., South Central Michigan Works, and Southern Michigan Bank & Trust. The 2009 College Fair has been scheduled for October 5, 2009.