



County Currents

SUMMER 2011

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- Shawn Vondra
- Jay Williams

Give More for Less in 2011: FINAL YEAR FOR CHARITABLE TAX CREDITS

CHANGES TO THE MICHIGAN TAX CODE signed into law in this year will include elimination of charitable tax credits beginning in 2012. This represents an important opportunity in 2011 for Michigan residents and businesses to contribute to endowment funds held by the Hillsdale County Community Foundation and receive state tax benefits.

When an individual, family or business invests in an endowed fund with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, the Michigan Income Tax or Michigan Business Tax codes allow for up to a 50 percent return on that investment. The credit also applies to individuals, families or businesses that create an endowed fund before December 31.

If an individual contributes \$200 or more, the tax credit automatically will equal \$100. If filing a dual return, a gift of \$400 or more would yield a \$200 credit. If a business contributes \$10,000 or more, the credit will be for \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, whichever is less.

As Michigan's tax incentive for charitable giving ends, HCCF assures donors who have given in this way in the past and through the remainder of 2011 that your contributions to our endowment funds will continue to benefit Hillsdale County forever—that's the real power of endowment. We encourage you to keep giving and to remember us in your estate planning. **CONTINUED ON 2**

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 funds:

- The **Community Support Fund** was created to provide financial support to various non-profit agencies throughout Hillsdale County.
- The **Human Services Network Fund** was created to provide financial support for the operations of the Human Services Network in Hillsdale County.
- The **Olin and Wilhelmina Hinkle Family Scholarship Fund** was established to award an annual scholarship to a Litchfield High School graduating senior or a graduating senior that is a resident of the currently defined Litchfield School District.
- The **Hillsdale County Community School of the Arts Fund** was created to provide financial support to the Hillsdale County Community School of the Arts and its summer music program. The School of the Arts is a program of ArtWorks of Hillsdale, Inc.
- The **Ladies Beautification League Community Support Fund** was established to provide financial support for the efforts of the Ladies Beautification League whose mission is to bring together community members, local businesses, resources and artists to honor our community history and encourage economic development through the enhancement and beautification of existing natural and architectural assets.

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2011 YOUTH Graduates

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



Mackenzie Hill
Represents Hillsdale High School
Attending Central Michigan University



Liz Kimball
Represents Hillsdale High School
Attending Olivet Nazarene University



Heather Lantis
Represents Hillsdale Academy
Attending Hillsdale College



Katie McLouth
Represents Pittsford
Attending Central Michigan University



Aaron Winch
Represents Waldron
Attending Jackson Community College

HCCF Summer Adult Grant Awards

THE HILLSDALE COUNTY Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the most recent adult grant cycle. A total of **\$44,370.52** has been awarded from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation General Endowment Fund to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit Hillsdale County residents.

- Hillsdale Area Men With Vision, \$10,000 to assist with costs of building materials and supplies to provide handyman and carpentry services to those in need;
- Hillsdale County Historical Society, \$667.62 for the publishing of a booklet to provide information about Civil War soldiers at Oak Grove Cemetery, to be used for research and organized tours;
- Salvation Army, \$15,000 for the Free Community Lunch Program, Fresh Food Initiative, and Food Pantry programs, serving those in need in Hillsdale County;
- Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, \$5,595 to purchase software to update the Tel-A-Tend program, a free 24-hour reassurance program available to senior citizens in Hillsdale County;
- Hillsdale Community Theatre, \$2,950 for costs associated with the Sauk Reunion project, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the theatre, including a "History of the Sauk Theatre" book for celebration attendees;
- Smiles on Wheels, \$2,157.90 for a free fluoride varnish and dental screening program offered to children taking part in Head Start, WIC, and immunization clinics;
- Human Services Network, \$1,500 to provide CPR and first aid training to local non-profit agency staff and to facilitate a poverty simulation training; and
- Wright-Waldron Fire Department, \$6,500 for training 35 members of several Hillsdale County Fire Departments.

HCCF YOUTH Summer Grant Awards

THE HILLSDALE COUNTY Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the most recent YOUTH grant cycle. A total of **\$37,486.79** has been awarded through the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund to area non-profit organizations for projects or programs to benefit young people in Hillsdale County.

- Camden-Frontier Schools, \$1,600 for an elementary summer literacy book club and exchange program;
- Hillsdale County Intermediate School District, \$1,850 for the 2011 Arts Day Camp;
- Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, \$1,196 for camperships for youth in the Kinship Care program;
- Community Action Agency, \$12,840.79 for the ABC Music & Me Laugh and Learn Music Program for Head Start classrooms; and
- Kimball Camp YMCA, \$20,000 for a 15-passenger van.

TAX CREDIT CONTINUED FROM 1

Gifts made after the start of 2012 will have as much value to us and the lives we touch, regardless of changes to the state tax code.

As we move forward, it is vitally important to remember that any support of the community through a donation to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation continues to have as much value as ever. Together, we will continue to make a difference.

YOUTH Host Community 5K Event



130 participants at the start of the Scott Merfeld Memorial March, at Sandy Beach on June 18, 2011.

THE YOUTH HOSTED the Scott Merfeld Memorial March 5K run/walk on June 18, with the route beginning and ending at Sandy Beach at Baw Beese Lake in Hillsdale. The course was mapped entirely on paved surfaces, and the final portion of the 5K took place on the bike path. 130 participants from ages 2-68 took part in the event. The 5K raised \$2,700 for youth programs in Hillsdale County.

The event was named in honor of Scott Merfeld, a past superintendent of Waldron Area Schools. Merfeld passed away in 2005 and was a proud supporter of young people, and

especially athletics. Scott Merfeld's son A.J. is a member of the YOUTH, and the opportunity to collaborate with the Merfeld family turned out to be a perfect fit for this event. The Hillsdale Community Health Center also partnered with the Foundation by being a bib sponsor and providing water bottles for all participants.

Other local support included a t-shirt logo designed by an area high school student, Chris Wood, a freshman at Hillsdale High School. The Hillsdale Market House provided fresh fruit and granola bars, while the Pepsi Bottling Group in Coldwater

donated several cases of bottled water. Hillsdale College track and cross country coach Bill Lundberg also provided invaluable expertise, equipment and several resources integral to the success of the event.

The YOUTH chose to promote health and wellness this year as part of their efforts to raise funds for the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund at the Community Foundation, an endowment fund from which the YOUTH are able to fund grant requests from area non-profits who are looking to finance projects and ideas to better the youth of Hillsdale County.

Make the Gift of a Lifetime

TURNING RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS INTO CHARITABLE GOOD

THERE IS GOOD NEWS for community foundation donors in their 70s—and for the communities they care about. A new law makes it possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) assets to charity through 2011, free from federal tax. Prior to 2006, all lifetime distributions from IRAs were taxed—even those given to charity.

This means that, now, our donors can give far more with less. This may be an attractive giving option for you if you are:

- Over 70½ and now receiving minimum IRA distributions—but do not need the extra income.
- Interested in making a significant lifetime gift.

Through 2011, the new law allows those age 70½ and older to transfer up to \$100,000 from an IRA to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation this year—tax-free. If married, each spouse can transfer \$100,000 per year from

his or her IRA. Using IRA assets to make a gift during your life, as opposed to giving via bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift.

HCCF is ready to help our donors take advantage of this legislation and make gifts during their lifetimes. Our personalized service and local expertise helps donors address the issues most important to them. We can connect you to the causes you care about most.

For more information on the charitable giving legislation and the Charitable IRA opportunity, please contact Sharon Bisher at 517-439-5101, or talk to your tax advisor.



Hillsdale County
community foundation™

P.O. Box 276
2 South Howell Street
Hillsdale, MI 49242
517.439.5101 **PHONE**
517.439.5109 **FAX**
info@abouthccf.org **EMAIL**
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HCCF Legacy Society— Securing Our Future

THE LEGACY SOCIETY recognizes those who have named the Hillsdale County Community Foundation as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift. By leaving a gift to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation in your estate plan, you could become a member of our Legacy Society.

We will never ask how much is being left to the Foundation and will never share any personal planned giving information. The purpose is to acknowledge and thank those who have made these gifts and to encourage and inspire others to do the same.

If you have made provisions for the Community Foundation in your planned giving, please let us know so we can include you in our recognition. We would also encourage you to contact us if you haven't made a plan as of yet but would like some assistance in doing so. Thank you for helping us in securing the future of Hillsdale County!

HCCF would like to extend a special thank you to the founding members of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation Legacy Society:

- Ardath McCall
- Don and Mary Sanderson
- Dalice Bengé
- Herb and Barb James
- Mike and Betty Fast
- Mary Alice Pope
- Vena Wade

Contact the Hillsdale County Community Foundation to learn more about supporting your community for years to come with the Legacy Society.

SAVE THE DATE

Hillsdale County College Fair

Monday, October 3, 2011

More details will be available soon!

MEET THE STAFF

Sharon Bisher
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

s.bisher@abouthccf.org

Susan Stout
PROGRAM OFFICER

s.stout@abouthccf.org

Amber Yoder
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
a.yoder@abouthccf.org

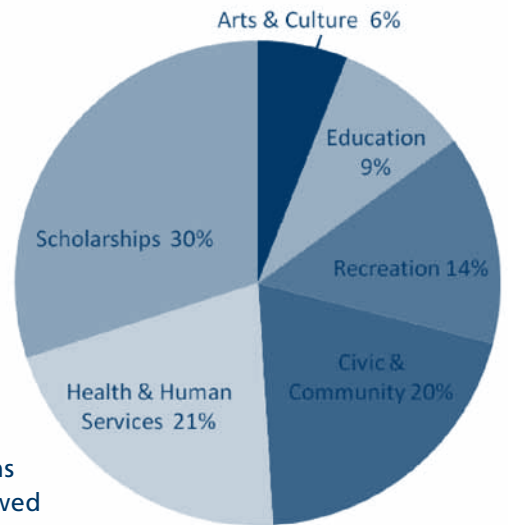
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We invite you to share your thoughts about the Foundation with any of our knowledgeable and helpful staff. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time!

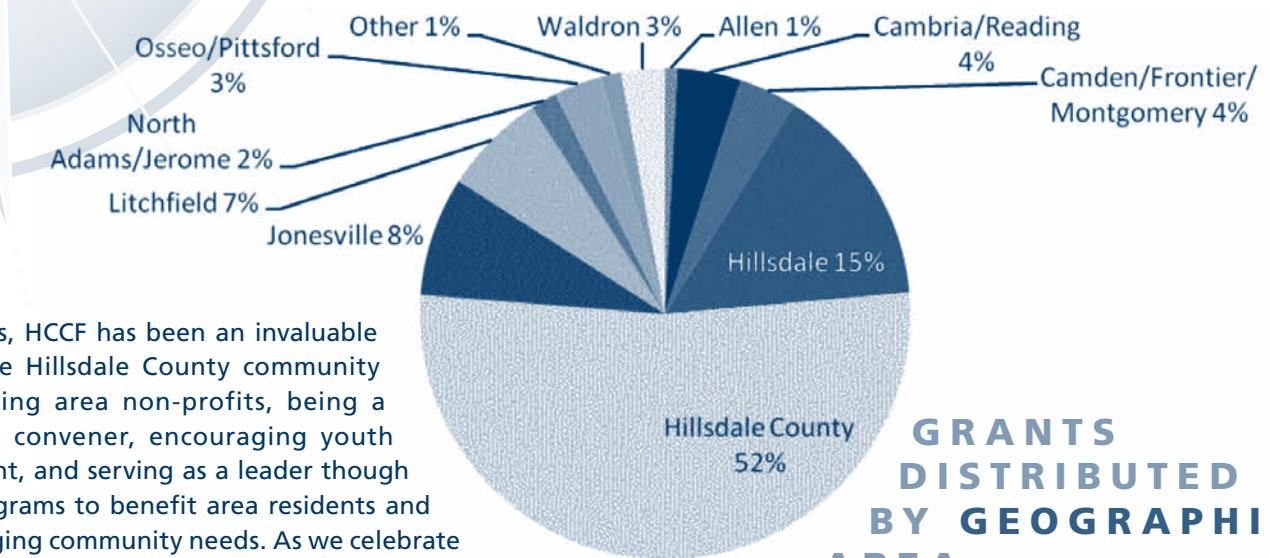
Celebrating 20 years of giving back to the community...

THE HILLSDALE COUNTY Community Foundation is a non-profit organization, created in 1991 and supported by individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Hillsdale County. We specialize in endowed funds, investing every gift we receive and giving the earnings of those gifts back to the community through grants and scholarships.

The Foundation is governed by a board of trustees made up of 16 community leaders. The board provides oversight to the investment and operations of HCCF. The Foundation exists to promote the spirit of philanthropy and assist others in realizing their charitable goals.



GRANTS DISTRIBUTED BY PROGRAM AREA



GRANTS DISTRIBUTED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

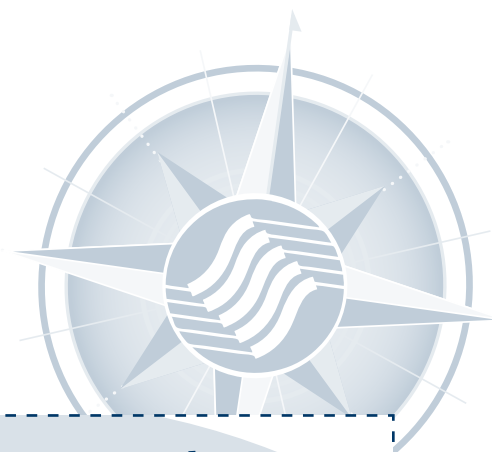
For 20 years, HCCF has been an invaluable asset to the Hillsdale County community by supporting area non-profits, being a community convener, encouraging youth development, and serving as a leader through several programs to benefit area residents and meet emerging community needs. As we celebrate 20 years of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation supporting our community, we would like to share with you all that we have accomplished together—**\$5.5 million has been given back to Hillsdale County.**



Giving Back

Jill Yehl (Food Bank of South Central Michigan), Lieutenants April and Chris Clarke (Salvation Army) and Sharon Bisher (HCCF), on the first day of distribution for the Fresh Food Initiative in Hillsdale County.

Celebrating 20 years of giving back to the community...

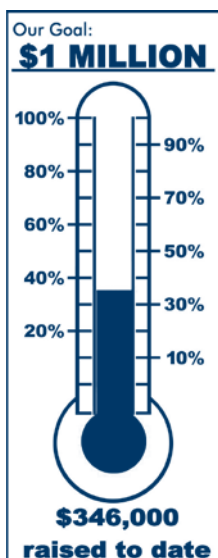


IN KEEPING WITH the wisdom of the first HCCF board, we are kicking off another capital campaign—with a goal of increasing our assets by \$1 million. This will result in an additional \$40,000 each year in grants to our community!

Why should you give to the Community Foundation? The answers are simple...

- we are transparent and fiscally accountable to our donors and our community;
- we have achieved the National Standards Seal of Approval from the Council on Foundations;
- through December 31, 2011, contributions to endowed funds are eligible for state tax credits, in addition to being deductible for federal taxes; and
- we demonstrate a proven, positive impact on those we strive to serve.

Our primary goal is to raise additional dollars for our General Endowment Fund (for grant making), the Kellogg Youth Advisory Fund (supporting youth philanthropy leadership and grant making), and the Simpson Foundation (supporting grant making and providing administrative support to HCCF). However, we would welcome and encourage giving to any of the 150 funds at the Foundation. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.



There are several ways to give to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, as we offer a wide range of giving methods to meet your needs and fulfill your charitable intentions: cash/check, pledges, stocks/securities, and for a limited time, gifts from IRA Rollovers.

Our staff would be happy to talk with anyone interested in any type of gifts. Our goal is, as it has always been, to promote philanthropy and giving back to our community and how together we can make a difference.

I/We wish to support the Hillsdale County Community Foundation

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Three-year commitment (choose one):

- \$100 per year \$300 total
- \$500 per year \$1500 total
- \$1000 per year..... \$3000 total
- other: \$ _____ per year \$ _____ total

I have selected the following three-year payment schedule:

Year One \$ _____ paid by _____
 Year Two \$ _____ paid by _____
 Year Three \$ _____ paid by _____

One-time donation for \$ _____

I would like to contribute to the following fund:

- HCCF ENDOWMENT FUND
- SIMPSON FOUNDATION
- KELLOGG YOUTH ADVISORY FUND
- other: _____

SEND TO:

Hillsdale County Community Foundation
 PO Box 276 • Hillsdale, MI 49242

For questions or more information, please call 517-439-5101 or visit www.abouthccf.org

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation qualifies as a public charity under the Internal Revenue Service Code. Therefore, your contribution, in most cases, will qualify as a charitable deduction for federal and state income tax purposes.

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