



# **2014 HCCF Annual Report**

**for good. For ever.**



The logo for the Huron County Community Foundation. It features the words "Huron County" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "community foundation" are written in a blue, serif font. A small "SM" trademark symbol is positioned to the right of "foundation". The entire logo is enclosed within a white rectangular box with thin blue horizontal lines above and below the text.

# Huron County

community foundation<sup>SM</sup>

## WELCOME

## **WELCOME TO THE 2014 HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT**

In 1994, Huron County residents wanted a permanent way to give back to the county they loved. Because of their demonstrated commitment to philanthropy, the Huron County Community Foundation was established. This year, we celebrate the Foundation's 20th anniversary and more than \$600,000 invested in the community since the organization's founding by highlighting 2014 accomplishments of the Foundation and several grantees.





# THE FOUNDATION

## THROUGH OUR EYES

2014 served as a milestone and a new beginning for the Foundation. Below, Board Chairman, John Moore, reflects on the Foundation's growth during its 20 year existence and Executive Director, Mackenzie Price, provides additional insight on the Foundation's year.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**MACKENZIE PRICE**

Partnership. If there was a one word summary for the Huron County Community Foundation's year, it would be partnership.

The year began with the Board of Trustees identifying Strategic Priorities to help guide the Foundation into the future. This endeavor was only successful because of the partnerships created with thumb area communities. The Priorities, which you can read later in this report, were developed from a series of conversations and surveys that wouldn't have been possible without our community partners.

In May, the Foundation hired their first ever full time Executive Director. This was funded through a partnership between Huron, Sanilac, and St. Clair County Community Foundations. This three county partnership worked all through 2014 on issues that are not bound by county lines, like attracting and retaining qualified STEAM talent and tourism.

The Foundation wrapped up 2014 by providing grants to some excellent projects in our county. We are proud that these organizations view the Foundation as a partner in their projects and an ally in improving the quality of life in Huron County.

Higher water raises all ships. At the Huron County Community Foundation, 2014 brought new partnerships with businesses, other Foundations, and community members that will help us continue our mission to positively impact Huron County...for good, forever.

-Mackenzie Price

**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**  
**JOHN MOORE**



A lot has happened to the Huron County Community Foundation in the past twenty years. It has grown from a one thousand dollar donation to almost four million dollars in fund equity. This is a result of contributions from residents of Huron County and a lot of effort by a small group of individuals consisting of board members and committee members, all of whom are volunteers.

The two main events that are undertaken to help provide operating funds for the Foundation are the annual golf outing and the "Bidder's Bash". It is anticipated the funds will be self-supporting in the future and these activities will no longer be needed.

The return on investments for the past four years is 9.68 percent, which, along with the contributions of the residents of Huron County, allows for growth in the Foundation's assets.

I would like to take this opportunity, in the name of the Huron County Community Foundation, to thank everyone who has assisted in the growth of the organization. It has been a tremendous effort by many individuals and hopefully will continue in the future. Remember the slogan: "FOR GOOD, FOREVER."

-John Moore



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## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

After compiling the data from our Strategic Priorities surveys and conversations, these were the identified priority areas that the Foundation will focus on, in addition to our original core competencies, through 2016.

### **Placemaking**

Including a focus on downtowns and bike trails

### **Career pathways**

Towards college or skilled trades

### **Reverse Scholarships**

Attracting college graduates to come back home

### **Tourism**

With an emphasis on agritourism, farmer's markets, orchards, wineries, etc.

### **Community Funds**

Funds created to benefit a community, empowering local giving and guaranteeing community impact





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## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

### 5155 BEARCATS ROBOTIC TEAM

During the Fall 2014 Foundation Grant Cycle, the 5155 Bearcats Robotics Team from Ubly High School had just finished their first season receiving multiple novice awards. In order to continue to build the program, additional funding was needed. After hearing a presentation from Ashley Osentoski, a founding team member, on the benefits of robotics and STEM programs for high school students, the Foundation knew this program targeted a Strategic Priority area of the Foundation, creating career pathways for Huron County students and decided to get involved.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics is a unique competition that allows high school students to work on tight deadlines using Computer Aided Design (CAD) to build a robot that can compete against other robots in a game chosen by FIRST. The 5155 Bearcats have competed at the State Championships in their first two seasons and continue to improve their scores. Their team also was a featured display at the Foundation's 2014 Annual Celebration where they provided demonstrations with the robot and explained the process to Foundation guests.

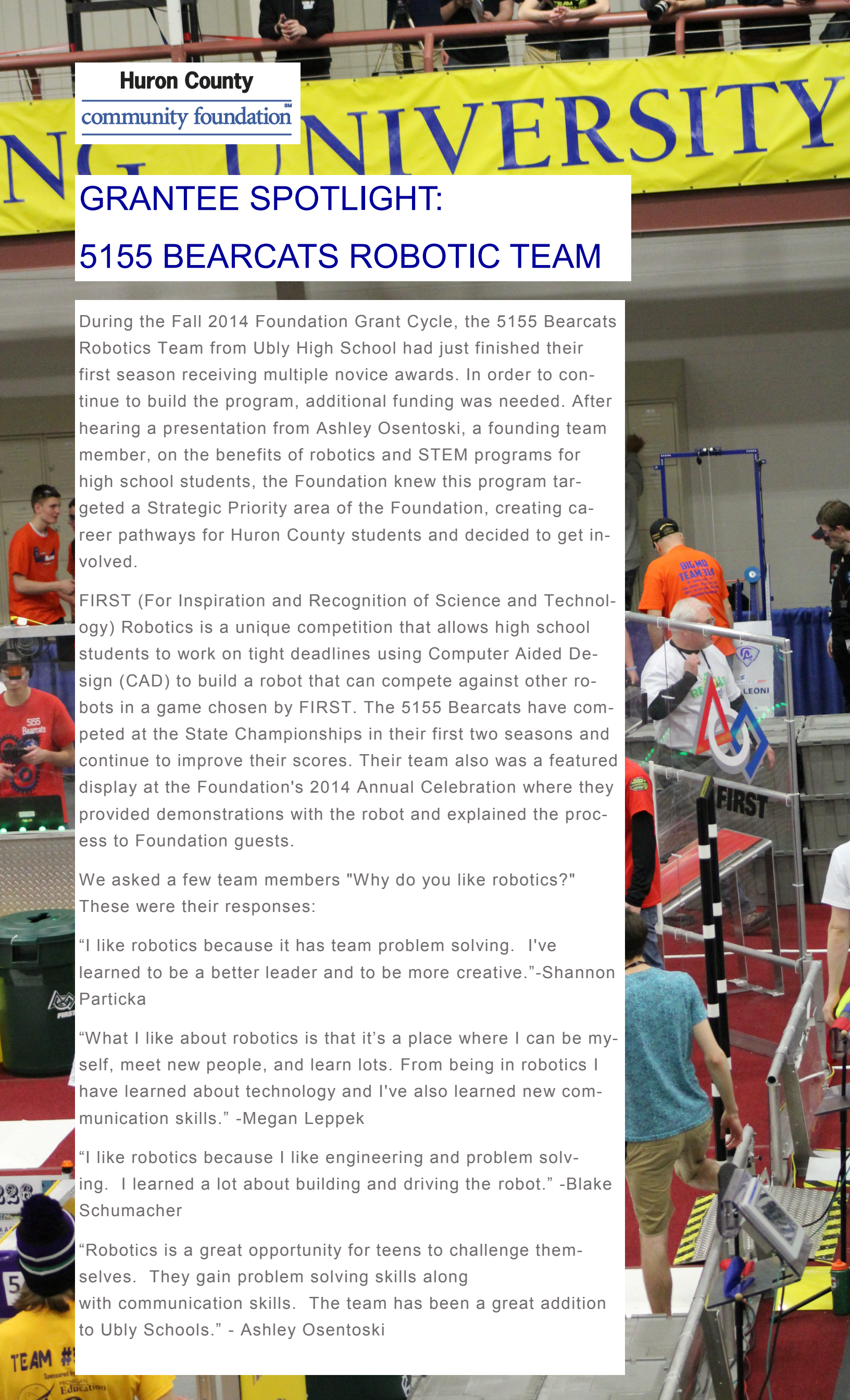
We asked a few team members "Why do you like robotics?" These were their responses:

"I like robotics because it has team problem solving. I've learned to be a better leader and to be more creative."-Shannon Particka

"What I like about robotics is that it's a place where I can be myself, meet new people, and learn lots. From being in robotics I have learned about technology and I've also learned new communication skills." -Megan Leppek

"I like robotics because I like engineering and problem solving. I learned a lot about building and driving the robot." -Blake Schumacher

"Robotics is a great opportunity for teens to challenge themselves. They gain problem solving skills along with communication skills. The team has been a great addition to Ubly Schools." - Ashley Osentoski

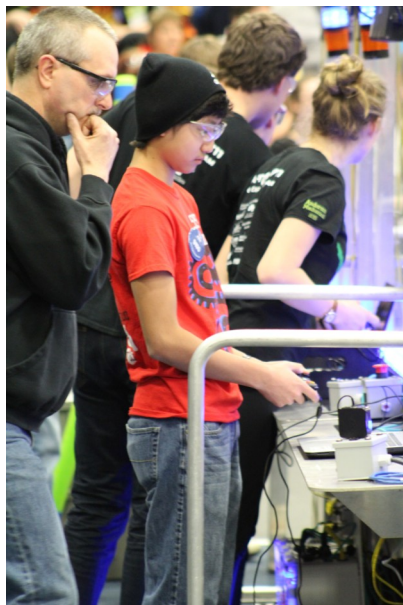
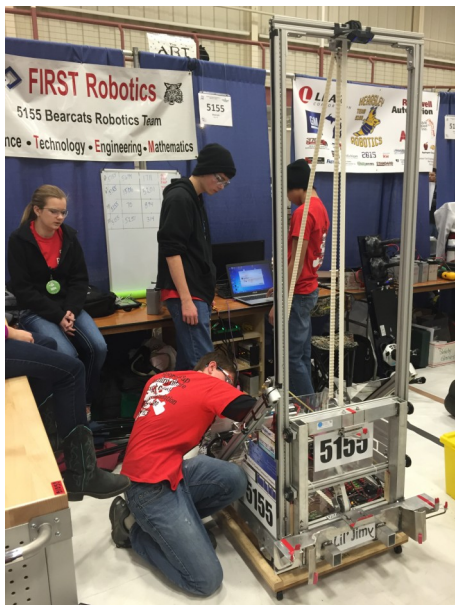
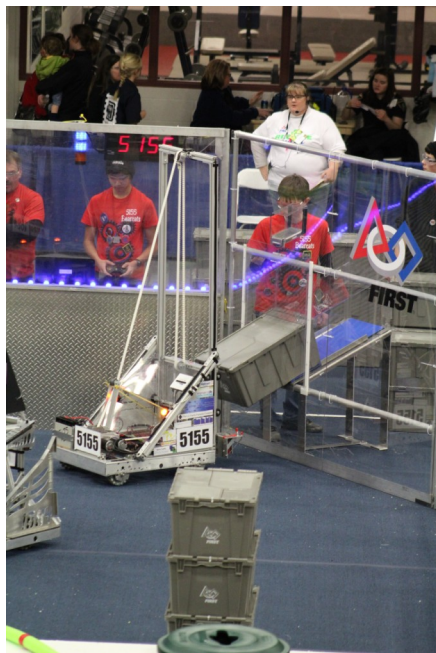




# FIRST Robotics

## 5155 Bearcats Robotics Team

Science • Technology • Engineering • Mathematics





## PRIORITY SPOTLIGHT: TOURISM

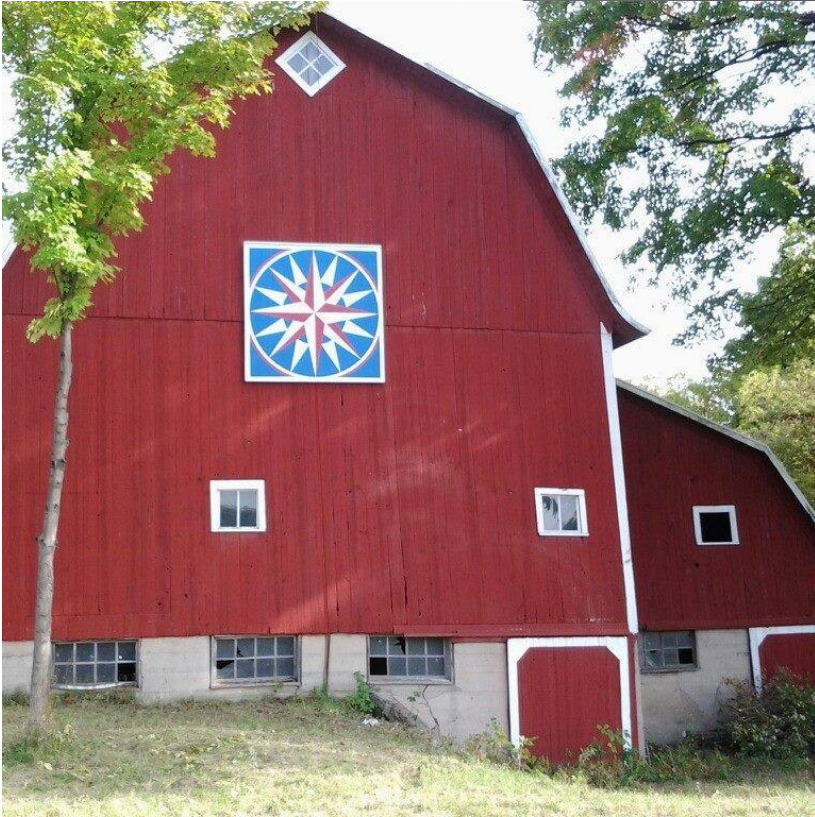
One strategic priority area of HCCF is tourism. HCCF engaged in three different projects around this priority area in 2014.

The first was a series of tourism kiosks, iPads with an application created specifically to serve as a platform for events in St. Clair, Sanilac, and Huron Counties. These tourism kiosks, designed to encourage tourism between the three counties via M-25, were unveiled in May 2014 and placed in each county along the shoreline.

We entered our Fall Grant Cycle with a focus of on our strategic priorities. Two applicants received funding to positively impact tourism in Huron County: Huron County Nature Center and Thumb Quilt Trail. Both of these initiatives offer tourism opportunities inland in Huron County, an area normally not thought of for tourists. The Nature Center is in the process of redoing their facility to accommodate larger groups and more interactive, hands on displays for visitors. The Thumb Quilt Trail was a new project for 2014, featuring large wooden quilt squares placed on buildings, primarily, historic barns. The map of the Quilt Trail is available at <http://www.thumbquilttrail.com/>



# THUMB *Quilt Trail*

The logo for the Thumb Quilt Trail is centered at the top. It features the word "THUMB" in large, bold, green capital letters. Below it, the word "Quilt" is written in a green script font, and "Trail" is also in a green script font. In the center, between the words, is a quilt star design. The star is composed of a central red square, surrounded by yellow and purple triangles, all enclosed within a white outline that resembles a barn roof.



## YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This year brought a new face and a new strategy to the Huron County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

In late 2014, a part-time YAC adviser was hired to oversee YAC projects and facilitate meetings. Emily Polega, a former teacher, assumed the position held by long-time YAC volunteer adviser, Jeanette Hagen. We would like to thank Jeanette for her years of service and for growing the YAC to the point where a part time, paid adviser became a necessity!

The youth grantmakers in 2014 had \$5,000 worth of grants to award to improve the quality of life for Huron County youth. The YAC decided to take a proactive approach with half of their grant dollars, a new strategy for the group. Instead of the typical, receive grant applications, discuss, grant, process, the YAC approached the Hockey Association and awarded them half of their grant dollars, \$2,500. This was the YAC's way of saying "We think the new hockey rink is a great idea!" The additional \$2,500 was split between 4 projects: Bad Axe Project Playground for more courts and benches at the school, Sebewaing Township Library Summer Reading Program, Laker Middle Schools' "Beyond Classroom Walls" environmental stewardship program, and Blue Water Youth for Christ's "Friday Night Lights-5th Quarter Parties".

Annually, the YAC decides upon a service project and, as a committee, plans and implements the project during the school year. This year, the YAC planned Cardboard City, an event where high school students sleep on the lawn of the Huron County Courthouse to raise awareness for homelessness in Huron County. Even though the event was held on a brisk fall evening, youth from all across the county participated.



## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Trustees and staff of the Huron County Community Foundation are honored to celebrate twenty years of making a difference in Huron County. To learn more about the Foundation, we invite you to explore the resources below found on our website

[huroncountycommunityfoundation.org](http://huroncountycommunityfoundation.org)

[Current Funds](#)

[Donor List](#)

[Financial Statement](#)

[990 Tax Return](#)

[Grants](#)

[Scholarships](#)