



2015 HCCF ANNUAL REPORT

For good. For Ever.



2015 Annual Report

With over twenty years of giving back to the community under our belts, the Huron County Community Foundation looked for new ways to serve Huron County. 2015 was full of innovation, expansion, and loving our community.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends of the Foundation,

We welcome you to the 2015 edition of our Annual Report. This report highlights activities, grants, and special projects of the Huron County Community Foundation. We hope you enjoy the summary it provides.

After celebrating the 20th anniversary of HCCF in 2014, we spent 2015 looking towards the next 20 years. We asked ourselves "How can we continue to benefit Huron County? How do we help our donors accomplish their charitable goals?". Inside the pages of this report you'll see how we answered: Community Funds, additional grants, and celebrating our donors at our Annual Celebration.

Our mission at HCCF is to improve the overall quality of life in Huron County for all of its residents.

-MACKENZIE PRICE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





ICE GRANTS—2015

For the first time in 2015, HCCF initiated a Facebook driven grant cycle. Our Innovative Community Enhancement (ICE) Grants were formed to support small impactful projects and programs aimed at enhancing and engaging communities with a focus on creativity and innovation. "The applications, the number of them and the quality, exceeded our expectations" said Executive Director Mackenzie Price. The next step was taking the projects to Facebook. Each project was uploaded with a short description and a photo; every "Like" of a project's photo counted as a vote. "This was a unique way for the community to rally behind projects that they believed would have an impact on our county," added Price. The winning projects were

- Owendale Garden Club and Seed Lending Library
- Brian Backus Nature Trail Gazebo, Harbor Beach
- Paint Our Playground- Bad Axe Public Schools Elementary Project Playground
- "Loads of Love" Laundry Project
- Sebewaing Rotary Club Community Garden (pictured)



Huron County
community foundation

Welcome to our
Annual Celebration!

Please sign the
guestbook.

Thanks for Coming!

For good. For ever.



ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Seeking a way to better connect our donors, community stakeholders, and community achievements, HCCF started a new tradition: an Annual Celebration. As the name suggests, it was far from an annual meeting around a board room. The inaugural event was held at Port Austin Kayak, a business owned by Trustee Chris Boyle. It featured food and drink from MJ's Kupcakery, The Wooded Island, The Farm, Captain John's, The Green Clean Bean, Dizzy Daisy Winery, and Bird Creek Farms.

Over 100 community stakeholders gathered for the evening. After informal networking, the program for the evening began. Executive Director, Mackenzie Price, provided an overview of the year in a "State of the Foundation" style address. Following Price was Randy Maiers, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for St. Clair County, who updated the audience on the ever changing role of the community foundations across the state of Michigan. The highlight of the evening were the ICE Grant presenters. The Innovative Community Enhancement Grants, discussed earlier in the report, were unveiled at the event and each proposal was given one minute to sell the audience of their project. At the conclusion of the elevator pitches, Price opened Facebook voting for the ICE Grants.

"The evening was a raving success, allowing us to share our message and thank our supporters on a much larger scale." said Price of the evening. "We look forward to continuing this tradition in years to come."

STEM Education and Placemaking were at the forefront of the Huron County Community Foundation (HCCF) Grant awards during their Fall 2015 Grant Cycle. Over \$12,000 was awarded to local projects this week as the grant award winners were announced.

HCCF published their strategic priorities last year after many community conversations and surveys. They continue to use those priorities to focus their grant funding. This year, many of the applicants impacted two strategic priority areas: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education and Placemaking, creating public spaces where people want to gather.

With the help of an HCCF Grant, a new MSU Extension program will be coming to Huron County. Thumb Dairy Odyssey, a program designed to increase knowledge around the field of dairy operations and showcase career opportunities in the field, will offer hands on learning opportunities for children ages 9-19. "This is the only program that focuses on Dairy exploration in the Thumb Area. Dairy operations are a large part of Huron County's history and future. We hope this program sparks an interest in area youth to pursue STEM careers and return to continue the legacy of these farms." said HCCF Executive Director, Mackenzie Price, of the project.

The largest placemaking project funded in the Fall 2015 Grant Cycle was the Bad Axe Little League Concession Stand Project. With a total project cost of \$90,000, Bad Axe Little League had begun the process of soliciting funding from community members and local businesses before approaching HCCF for a grant. "This concession stand is a staple of spring and summer recreation for all of the teams in the county who utilizes the Bad Axe Little League Fields. The community has already begun to support this project, so we were happy to join the effort." Price noted.

A full list of grants can be seen below. Funding for these projects was provided by HCCF Field of Interest and Discretionary funds including: Education, Reading and Literacy Fund, Health and Medical Fund, Recreation Resources Trust Fund, Huron Medical Center Fund, Huron County Trust Fund, Huron County Economic Development Fund, and the Huron Natural Areas Preservation Fund.

- ◆ Thumb Dairy Odyssey, Huron County MSU Extension - \$500
- ◆ Harbor Beach Rotary Gazebo Project - \$800
- ◆ Concession Stand Project - Bad Axe Little League - \$3,000
- ◆ FRC Team 5156, Laker High School FIRST Robotics - \$2,750
- ◆ Port Austin Street Sculptures - \$750
- ◆ The History Trail, Port Austin Historical Society - \$479
- ◆ Thumb Quilt Trail, Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn - \$500
- ◆ STEM Classroom, Ugly Community Schools - \$350





YAC

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) had a fun filled year, with community service projects, proactive grantmaking, and teambuilding with students from across the county.

The YAC examined their Needs Assessment, performed in 2014, and noticed that the top two areas of concern for our county's middle and high school students were drug and alcohol use and abuse. To combat this issue, the YAC took a proactive approach, seeking out organizations they thought would have an impact on the issue. Two grants were awarded: Everyone 4 Prevention and the Huron County Hockey Association. Everyone 4 Prevention is a program of the Huron County Health Department that gets youth involved in substance abuse prevention education and programming. The YAC agreed that this program was a unique way to target their peers with information. The second grant went to the Huron County Hockey Association. As they looked over the Needs Assessment, the YAC considered that a lack of access to constructive activities could be partially causing the increase in concern and exposure to drug and alcohol use. This is where the Huron County Hockey Association came in to play. The YAC awarded the Hockey Association a grant to use as scholarships for players who couldn't otherwise afford to join a hockey team. It is the YAC's hope that this constructive alternative will continue to encourage their peers to be active, driving them away from destructive decisions.

In cooperation with the Huron County Department of Human Services, the YAC connected their elementary schoolmates with senior citizens in their community service project this year. The YAC students engaged kindergarten and first grade classrooms in coloring contests and card marking, then scheduled a day with their local nursing home to deliver the masterpieces and visit with residents. YAC students went to three different nursing homes during the course of the week and delivered over 200 colored pages to residents while also participating in the activity of the day, including bingo and card games.





PIGEON COMMUNITY FUND & 2015 NEW FUNDS

2015 brought new funds, which means new ways to impact Huron County. One of these new funds is the **Pigeon Community Fund**, a fund that will in perpetuity support projects and organizations impacting the greater Pigeon area. This community fund is led by a committee of people who care about the area: Dwight Gascho (chairman), Chris Wurst, Susan Meyerseick, Jeff Leipprandt, Don Faupel, and HCCF Board Member, Mike LePage. This fund is the first of its kind in the Thumb area and allows individuals to give knowing their contributions will be used to support Pigeon in the years to come.

Other New Funds in 2015:

- ETL Agricultural Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Tom Gettel Memorial Fund - a Donor Advised Fund
- K. William and Joanne Pietscher Future Educators Scholarship Fund
- Hatchet Fund – HCCF's newest school fund
- Michael B. and Regina V. Lasceski Scholarship Fund
- Huron County Reverse Scholarship Fund – a new initiative to focus on talent retention and attraction in Huron County



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

Current Funds

Financial Statements

990 Statements

Grants

Scholarships

