Attention Class of 2020 & Current College Students: Scholarship Applications are Now Available

Bay Area Community Foundation’s scholarships are now available to any current high school senior, college student, or adult wishing to pursue post-secondary education in the fall of 2020. Applications are available online at www.bayfoundation.org/students and are due March 2, 2020.

Complete scholarship criteria is also available on the website, and students may apply for up to 15 different scholarships with just one application!

BACF scholarships are awarded from endowment funds established by families, civic organizations, and businesses in our area. Students are encouraged to visit the Great Lakes Bay College & Career Resource Center, located on the first floor of the Pere Marquette Depot at 1000 Adams. Advisors are available to help students find and apply for scholarships and navigate the financial aid process. To schedule an appointment, call (989) 893-6026.

Application deadline is March 2, 2020

Inside this issue

Utilizing our Water Resources

Learn about three new water projects in Bay County that will open up recreational opportunities and utilize our resources in sustainable ways.

Increased Accessibility at Bay City Players

A new parking lot adds closer parking and spaces for those with mobility issues, increasing safety for all patrons.

Women Are “Getting Ahead”

Through grant funding and program support, Bay Area Community Foundation partners with YWCA for “Getting Ahead” program.
Believe in Your Dreams

It was about this time last year when I came across a writing by Kobi Yamada that served as inspiration for our theme for the 2019—believe. As this year draws to a close, I want to share these words with you in the hope that they will move you as they did me.

Believe in your dreams.
Believe in today.
Believe that you are loved.
Believe that you make a difference.
Believe we can build a better world.
Believe when others might not.
Believe there’s a light at the end of the tunnel.
Believe that you might be that light for someone else.
Believe that the best is yet to be.
Believe in each other.
Believe in yourself.

Thank you for all the ways you believe in our community.

Believing in the power of YOU,

Diane M. Fong, President & CEO

2019 Business Sponsors

Thank you to our Business Sponsors for showing their support for the work of the Bay Area Community Foundation.

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To learn more about becoming a Bay Area Community Foundation Business Sponsor, please contact Lisa Bourdon-Krause at the BACF office at 989.893.4438
Community Impact Initiative Grants

Bay Area Community Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards for three Bay County projects that will make a lasting impression on our community by utilizing our unique natural water resources to attract and retain residents and business. These projects will improve access to Bay County's waterfront, open up recreational opportunities, and utilize the natural resources in smart and sustainable ways. Through the Foundation's Community Impact Initiative and Healthy Living funds, $300,000 will be awarded to Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, Fraser Township, and Monitor Township.

Riverbend West - Bay City
Along the Saginaw River in Bay City, the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy's Riverbend West restoration project will open up visual access to the only undeveloped, natural piece of riverfront in Bay City. They will remove invasive plants, reintroduce native species, and construct a new universally-accessible trail to allow residents and visitors to discover the natural history of Michigan and take in the beautiful river scenery.

Bay Access - Fraser Township
The end of Linwood Road in Fraser Township provides the only free access to the Saginaw Bay in our community. The Township’s project will transform what is now essentially a parking lot into a destination with added green spaces for families to enjoy the shoreline, picnic, fish, and launch kayaks and canoes. Added amenities will include a portable fishing dock and ADA-accessible kayak launch.

Herbert W. Steih Memorial Park - Monitor Township
In Monitor Township, the Herbert W. Steih Memorial Park provides access to the Kawkawlin River for kayakers, canoers, snowmobilers, and fishers. The effects of Mother Nature, along with the park’s continuous use, require steps be taken to preserve the space. This project will stabilize the riverbank, preserving the natural resources for future generations to enjoy in addition to adding an expansion of park amenities.

Imagine with us how the best is yet to come as these spaces transform. View a “before” video to learn more about these significant projects at www.bayfoundation.org/believe.
In 2017 and 2019, Bay Area Community Foundation awarded $25,000 in grants from the Community Initiative and Oscar P. and Louise H. Osthelder Advisory funds for Bay City Players to increase safety by building a parking lot adjacent to their building.

When the Bay City Players first set out to build a parking lot adjacent to the theater, they had two things in mind: additional parking spaces and improved safety for those with mobility issues. Little did they know at the time, their contractor would discover buried gas tanks on the property shortly after they got started. This presented a new financial challenge and a need to raise more money than they had budgeted for.

They knew how important this parking lot would be for theater patrons, so they didn’t let this stop them. They believed that the theater should be accessible for all. They believed that it could happen, and they knew there were others who believed, too.

They exceeded their second fundraising goal, and the parking lot is now completed, including eight designated spaces for those with mobility issues. Bay Area Community Foundation is proud to be just one of many community believers to help bring this project to completion and make the theater more accessible for all.

The Bay City Players is the oldest continuously operating theater in Michigan. This photo is from last year’s production of On Golden Pond, a 1979 play by Ernest Thompson.
More Than One Way to Give

When you think of making a gift, do you think about writing a check or entering credit card information? Did you know there are other ways to donate other than gifting cash? Here are two of the most popular ways to starting making a difference today:

Donate Stock

Making a gift of stock to the Bay Area Community Foundation is an easy and tax-effective way to fulfill your philanthropic goals. Your gift qualifies for a tax deduction based on the full market value of your stock. Plus, if the stock has appreciated in value, you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of these shares. Please work with your financial advisor to complete a stock gift form, available on our website.

Give from Your IRA

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit your community and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to Bay Area Community Foundation without paying income taxes on the gift. This popular option is commonly called the IRA Charitable Rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD, for short. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, this type of gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

Learn more about how to work with your financial advisor to make these gifts at www.bayfoundation.org/believe.
MISSION
The mission of the Bay Area Community Foundation is to fulfill a wide array of donors’ charitable wishes throughout Bay and Arenac counties by building permanent endowment funds and serving as a leader for community improvement through effective grantmaking and collaboration.

Bay City Western High School’s French-American Exchange Program volunteered a Sunday afternoon to clean up the railtrail and the State Park by picking up garbage and clearing debris. They earned a $1,000 Dow communityGives grant for their hard work.

END OF YEAR GIVING NOTE:
HOLIDAY HOURS & CLOSINGS

The Bay Area Community Foundation Offices will observe the following holiday week schedule:

- Tuesday, Dec. 24 .......... Closed all day
- Wednesday, Dec. 25 ...... Closed all day
- Dec. 26-27....Open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday Dec. 31 ...... Open until Noon
- Wednesday, Jan. 1 ...... Closed all day

Any donations postmarked by December 31 will be included in 2019 contributions. Please note that donations are accepted online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.bayfoundation.org.

Donate online ANYTIME at:
www.bayfoundation.org

Bay Area Community Foundation Staff

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