

### The Toucan Exclusive: An Interview with Tommy the Toucan

Program Associate Jamie Jager recently had the opportunity to chat with the Bay Commitment College Access Network's mascot, Tommy the Toucan. Read on to learn about this colorful character!

Jamie Jager: Welcome to BCCAN! We're glad to have you on board. Tell us about yourself, Tommy.

Tommy the Toucan: Well, I was born and raised in the forests of Brazil, where I spent my days reading, chirping, and taking classes at the community college. Secretly though, I dreamt of the mascot life – it's like being a rock star, but with a mission. When I learned of BCCAN's job opening, I polished up my beak, preened my feathers, and bought a little nest here near the water.

JJ: What's your favorite part of the job?

TT: I love being around students! The high-fives, the hugs, the slightly bewildered faces of those first encountering a nearly 7 feet tall toucan – it's all wonderful! I'm also thrilled to encourage people to pursue their educational dreams. It's the key to the future, and the students here are so smart! And on top of everything, I get to show off my moonwalking skills on a daily basis. It's almost more happiness than a bird can handle!

JJ: How do you get students excited?

TT: I've been known to "shake a tail feather" to get people going, and have even won a few dance-offs in my time. I also roll my belly around in circles, participate in contests, and generally frolic –whatever it takes to get kids motivated for college!

JJ: It sounds like being a mascot is a busy job! What do you do in your free time?

TT: Oh, the usual. I go berry-picking, search for the perfect branches to add to my nest, and take long walks along the beach at the State Park. I also exercise daily; being a mascot requires extreme physical fitness, so I have to keep myself trim and fit. Finally, I read constantly. I love learning and working up a mental sweat!

JJ: Who do you look up to?

TT: I have some distant relatives who are also in the mascot business, though they work with cereal. I've always admired their work, and the pride they bring to toucans everywhere. I'm honored to continue that tradition here, but with a college-positive focus.

Please join us in welcoming our exciting new team member to the Bay Area Community Foundation. To learn more about the Bay Commitment College Access Network's work in promoting the importance of post-secondary education please visit [www.baycommitment.org](http://www.baycommitment.org).



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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.

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### Philanthropy Is...

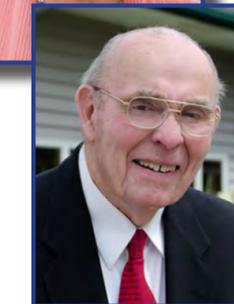
On the evening of September 30th the Bay Area Community Foundation played host to nearly 300 guests at the 2013 Faces of Philanthropy Celebration! Held at the DoubleTree by Hilton – Bay City Riverfront, this event honored area individuals who have worked to improve our community through selfless contributions of time, energy, and financial resources. Faces of Philanthropy is presented every other year by the Bay Area Community Foundation and brings together families, businesses, educators, government leaders, and volunteers in our region to recognize the enormous contributions made by area philanthropists.

One of the evening's major highlights was the presentation of the Peggy Rowley Community Enrichment Award to the 2013 recipients. Established in 1996 the award is given to community residents who have distinguished themselves as philanthropic leaders through volunteerism, contributions of financial resources, or both. The award is only presented when someone truly deserving is identified. Past recipients include; Peg Rowley, Bob Sarow, Ron McGillivray, Ralph Powell, Mr. Leopold J. Kantzler, Jerome Yantz, Ruth Jaffe, Thomas Tabor III, and Guy T. Moulthrop. The last award was presented to Donald Carlyon and Charles Curtiss in 2011. This year's honorees include Richard "Dick" Somalski and Edith "Dee Dee" Wacksman.

Sandra Pierce, Vice Chairman of FirstMerit Corporation, and Chairman and CEO of FirstMerit Michigan, served as the evening's keynote speaker.



Prior to joining FirstMerit, Pierce was Midwest Regional Executive, President and CEO for Charter One Bank, Michigan, a division of RBS Citizens and also a member of Citizens Financial Group's Executive Leadership Group and the Midwest Regional Advisory Board. She is currently a board member of Barton Malow Enterprises and Penske Automotive Group. She serves as Chair of the Detroit Financial Advisory Board and chair of the Henry Ford Health System. Current and past business associations and civic involvements include board membership on Business Leaders for Michigan; Detroit Economic Club; Detroit Regional Chamber; the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy; Detroit Zoological Society; Downtown Detroit Partnership; Invest Detroit; New Detroit, Inc., and The Parade Company. In 2012, Pierce was recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as one of Detroit's 2011 "Most Powerful Women"; was named as one of the 2011 "Detroit News Michiganian of the Year", and was identified as a "Powered by Detroit Woman" by dBusiness.





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### A Thriving Bay Area Giving Guide

Dear Friends and Community Supporters,

A thriving community does not become passive. We continue to build on success, evaluate future needs, and focus on continued improvement. A thriving community generates a sense of meaningful engagement. It brings together many people who are passionate about their community and wish to make Bay and Arenac counties an outstanding place to live.

Bay Area Community Foundation views our community as a whole - not in parts or pieces. We foster a sense of shared purpose with our donors. We highlight the best in people, and we challenge each other to strive further. We share the belief that philanthropy in Bay and Arenac counties becomes greater when we work together.

People who are part of a thriving community feel cared about, acknowledged, and have a strong desire to give back. Donors work with us to pay it forward, knowing they may never experience how their generosity shapes the future.

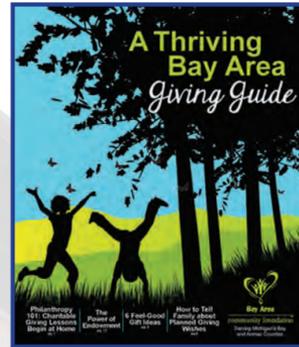
In order for Bay Area Community Foundation succeed in our efforts, it is essential we have a working partnership with our donors. We celebrate success, both large and small. When allocating resources, we communicate with our donors about community priorities, and we draw upon the knowledge of our local committee members. We ensure our assets are used in the most beneficial manner. Through collaboration, we help our community thrive in both outstanding and uncertain times.

Conversations in a thriving community result in actions that promote a sense of something greater than one individual. Please join the Bay Area Community Foundation in conversations about local giving and working as partners.

Sincerely,

Eileen A. Curtis  
President & CEO

To obtain your own copy of *A Thriving Bay Area Giving Guide* vol. 2 and to learn how you can contribute to Bay Area Community Foundation call (989) 893-44438.



### Turning Stock Market Gains Into Community Investment

Everybody wins when you make a gift of appreciated stock to your community foundation. Your gains are put to good use. Your gift of stock is reinvested in your community, and it qualifies for an immediate tax deduction based on the full fair market value.

#### How it works

- You make a gift of appreciated stock to your community foundation.
- Your gift can be placed into any of our charitable funds. For example, you can use your gift to create a Donor Advised Fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose. You can then stay involved in recommending uses of the fund.
- Your gift qualifies for a tax deduction based on the full market value of your stock; you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of this stock.
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested and will grow over time. Grants addressing community needs are made forever.



Giving appreciated stock through a community foundation is popular among a range of givers — individual investors, families, entrepreneurs, and even groups of friends who have formed investment clubs.

By giving stock through your community foundation, you can avoid capital gains taxes that would be due as a result of its sale and establish a charitable fund that benefits the local causes and organizations you care about most. With gifts of appreciated stock, your stock market earnings translate into community impact, so you get a more rewarding return on your portfolio. You can set up a scholarship; support special programs for at-risk youth, senior citizens, or other people in need; address environmental concerns; or support the arts.

### You Too Can With BCCAN!

The popular *You Too Can With BCCAN* events are back again this fall!

This informational series includes four nights of college preparation information and advice presented by the Bay Commitment College Access Network. All events are free to the public and attendees will walk away with their very own College Prep Survival Kit. Please join us for:

- General College Planning (Intended for all ages)  
October 15th, 2013 from 6 to 7 pm
- Great Start (Intended for ages 0-12 and families)  
November 19th, 2013 from 6 to 7 pm
- ACT Quick Prep (Best for H.S. students and families)  
November 21st, 2013 from 6 to 7 pm
- FAFSA Night (Best for seniors, college students, and families)  
February 25th, 2014 from 6 to 7 pm



Those wishing to participate are asked to RSVP by calling (989) 893-6026 or emailing jamiej@bayfoundation.org.

### A Special Thank You

Two more organizations have pledged their support to the Bay Area Community Foundation's mission to foster student success in postsecondary education. The Nickless Family Charitable Foundation and AT&T have given a combined \$125,000 to the Great Lakes Bay College Resource Center. Since 2012 nearly than \$600,000 has been given by businesses and foundations to support the Great Lakes Bay College Resource Center. These entities recognize the importance of education and are actively investing in initiatives aimed at creating the next generation of skilled workers.

According to the Lumina Foundation, the nation's largest private foundation focused solely on increasing Americans' success in higher education, by 2018 sixty percent of U.S. jobs will require some sort of postsecondary education. Unfortunately, in 2010 approximately 38.3 percent of working Americans held at least a two-year degree and in Michigan that figure is closer to 36.4 percent.

Clearly there is a great need for a cultural shift that puts an emphasis on postsecondary education; the question though is how do we do it? While there is no easy answer, the Bay Area Community Foundation is committed to doing its part to make college access a reality for area students. We want to thank the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation and AT&T for their support of us and our efforts promoting college access.

### Recently Established Funds

**Christina M. Goyett Scholarship Fund** - Christina "Chrissy" Goyett graduated from John Glenn High School in 2010. She was a member of John Glenn Girls Swim Team for four years. Chrissy went on to Bowling Green State University where she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and was very active in volunteering for Relay for Life, Autism Speaks, and participated in leadership programs. She had decided to be an educator of autistic children just prior to an automobile accident that took the lives of Christina and two of her sorority sisters in March of 2012. She will be remembered for her "Live, Laugh, Love" approach to life. This scholarship was started by her loving family and friends in her memory to pass forward the gift of education to which Christina would have devoted her life.



**CRITERIA:** John Glenn High School Senior. Member of John Glenn High School Girls Swim Team for a minimum of three years. Minimum 2.5 GPA. Priority will be given to students pursuing a career in education.

**Paul Revard and Frances Santoro Bay Commitment Fund** - This fund is designated to support Bay Commitment First Generation Scholarships.

**Charles and Morrow Ford Bay Commitment Fund** - This fund is designated to support Bay Commitment First Generation Scholarships.

**Pinconning Bandshell Project Fund** - Build a bandshell in Doc Letchfield Park in Pinconning, MI to provide a cultural and social venue to be utilized by residents, schools, local organizations and the community at large for many years. The bandshell will become a community destination for outdoor performances to enrich the lives of people in Northern Bay County.

**Pinconning Bandshell Endowment Fund** - To provide for maintenance, upkeep and improvements to the Pinconning Bandshell and surrounding area.

### 2013 Business Sponsors

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