



# SHIAWASSEE

— COMMUNITY FOUNDATION —

For good. For ever.®

Spring 2023

Happy Spring!



May is such a beautiful month of rebirth and new growth! Mother nature reminds us of this when the birds start chirping, and we see the baby ducklings by the river. I am perpetually reinvigorated in May, as our office has just finished the spring scholarships and grants. Time to look forward to new growth and development for our community!

### **What can we all do to give back?**

May is also National Mental Health Awareness Month, and mental health is one of the leading initiatives in our Foundation's strategic plan. In reviewing the 2020 Shiawassee Youth Needs Assessment created in partnership with our YAC students and the Shiawassee Youth Coalition through the Health Department, mental health was the number one concern among teens. In comparison, the 2022 Memorial Healthcare Community Health Needs Assessment showed that mental health is at a critical stage in our lives.

### **What can we do? How can we improve this?**

The Foundation continues to work with local healthcare providers and community leaders to resolve some of the issues we are facing in our community. If you are interested in being a part of the solution, please contact me; I would love to sit and chat with you to discuss how our community can become stronger together. There will be more information in the future regarding this as we chisel away the stigma associated with mental health and delve into the deeper causes.

In the meantime, please keep in touch with those suffering from this terrible illness. It really does take a village!

Kim Renwick, Executive Director



## **2023 Awards Night**

The Shiawassee Community Foundation hosted its Scholarship Awards Night on Wednesday, April 12, at the Laingsburg High School Auditorium, marking the Foundation's 49th year of giving.

The Foundation welcomed nearly 200 guests to celebrate the 2023 recipients. There were 137 scholarships, awarded from 78 funds, totaling over \$151,000, covering 12 school districts across the county. Each awardee showed superior academic performance and service to our community. The keynote speaker for the event was Matthew Shastal, School Superintendent of Laingsburg Community Schools. Matt shared his secrets to success and reminded seniors to take plenty of photographs for their parents during their new journey.

The Foundation would like to thank our board, staff, and Youth Advisory Council for their hard work and commitment to our community. We also extend a special thank you to the sponsors of the awards night, CLH Insurance Agency of Owosso and Laingsburg and Stifel Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group. *Continued Page 2*

Continued from page 1 - Scholarship Awards

**Alexander Women's Scholarship**  
Sydney Somers

**Karl F. and Zirtha H. (Lowers) Allert Memorial Scholarship**  
Emily Smith

**Bancroft Lions Club John Wright Memorial Scholarship**  
Allie Jones

**Nancy Ruth Patenge Beyer Memorial Scholarship**  
Noah Feinauer Emma Johnson

**Dr. Bhaskaran Memorial Scholarship**  
Jamie Maier

**Elsie Blair and Suzanne Blair Anderson Memorial Scholarship**  
Chloe Stork

**Olive Blanner Scholarship**  
Lauren Gaskin Simranjit Kaur

**Brittany Buchholz Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Claire Buckley Kenzee DeFrenn

**Byron Community Scholarship**  
Kadense Robinson Kelsea Strzelecki-Davis  
Anya Wasilenski Olivia Krejci (Chase Fund)  
Allissa Ash (Duncanson Fund)

**PFC Shane W. Cantu Memorial Scholarship**  
Persephone Chapko

**Emily Chapman Memorial Scholarship**  
Emma Warren Rachel Warren

**Philip and Inez Colton Memorial Scholarship**  
Emily Daley

**Phyllis L. and Alton D. Crandell Memorial Scholarship**  
Brock Holek

**Karen K. Dasen Memorial Scholarship**  
Kaylee Siddens

**Rollin V. Dasen Memorial Scholarship**  
Cassie Stone

**Drew Decker Memorial Music Scholarship**  
Ethan Smith

**Norman L. and Marcella C. DesJardins Memorial Scholarship**  
Julianna Loomis Corbin Thompson

**Shana Lynne Dumond Memorial Scholarship**  
Amanda Brainerd Lily Usher

**Durand Lions Club Scholarship**  
Jillian Reddy Brooklyn Zakoor

**Durand Rotary Club Scholarship**  
Joseph Huff

**Shelli (Bowles) Edgington Memorial Scholarship**  
Claire Buckley

**Alford and Alice Emmert Scholarship**  
Katlyn Cunningham Kayla Manley

**Don and Becky Galloway Scholarship**  
Faith Allen Hayley Lademann

**Cheryl Gapinski Memorial Scholarship**  
Adam Marcotte

**The GFWC Owosso Woman's Club Scholarship**  
Cole Yaros

**Cyril C. and Ella M. Gregoricka Agriculture Scholarship**  
Adam Marcotte

**Phyllis Lundie Gruver Memorial Scholarship**  
Avery Gilson Jamie Maier

**Harold J. Haas Memorial Scholarship**  
Corbin Thompson

**Coach Tom Harkema Athletic Scholarship**  
Tyler Hufnagel Emma Johnson

**Ellane I. Hogan Memorial Scholarship**  
Natalie Nolph

**C.S. Hood Memorial Scholarship**  
Madeline Eustace Sydney Leydig  
Elizabeth Poirier Jonah Smith

**Cheryl L. Hrcka Memorial Scholarship**  
Mackayla Davis Kenzee DeFrenn  
Tyler Hufnagel Logan Roka

**Harold V. and Ima B. Johns Memorial Scholarship**  
Kenzee DeFrenn Jamie Maier

**Donald A. Knieper Memorial Scholarship**  
Madison Wendling

**Knights Of Columbus St. Mary Council 7955 Scholarship**  
Ryan Kleimola Hayley Lademann Victoria Reed

**Kris Marie Kulhanek Memorial Fund**  
Alexander Scovill

**Lajoye-Shenk Scholarship**  
Hannah Jane Sharkey

**Jackie Leone Memorial Scholarship**  
Amanda Brainerd

**Jill Malzahn Health Fund**  
Charlotte Hartges

**Dr. Mark Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Sydney Gillett Samantha Shenk

**Eugene and Joyce Moiles Memorial Scholarship**  
Madison Sheldon

**Joann (Butcher) Nelson Memorial Scholarship**  
Natalie Thayer

**New Lothrop Schools Endowment**  
Molly Eickholt

**Nathan Nover Memorial Scholarship**  
Olivia Burt

**Nover Owosso High School Sparkplug Award**  
Tanner Cummings

**Martin and Leona O'Brien Scholarship**  
Brock Holek

**Owosso Education Association's Mary E. Harper Scholarship**  
Alexander Binger Abigail Dryer Noah Feinauer  
Samantha Harris Jamie Maier Liam McGraw

**Owosso High School Leadership Scholarship**  
Claire Agnew

**Andrew Osika Endowed Agricultural Scholarship**  
Brock Holek

**Paul Penjaska Family Scholarship**  
Faith Allen Claire Buckley Kenzee DeFrenn  
Ellie Feldpausch Lauren Gaskin Zachary Hinojosa  
Joseph Huff Emma Johnson Regan Kopesky  
Joe Marcotte Stella Passow  
Logan Roka Hannah Jane Sharkey Sawyer Shastal  
Madison Sheldon Jonah Smith Naia Smith  
Chloe Stork Natalie Thayer Rachel Warren  
Jason Weber Lindsey Wendling Molly Winson  
Cole Yaros Brooklyn Zakoor

**Shirley (1936) and Joseph Poirier Scholarship**  
Paige Box Alayna Scripter

**Kyler Raffaelli Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Gavin Holmes

**David A. Reed Agricultural Scholarship**  
Emma Challender

**Evan James Reed Memorial Scholarship**  
Seth Blackledge

**Andrew Rehmann Memorial Fund**  
Chloe Stork

**Owen A. and D. Arlene Rood Journalism Scholarship Fund**  
Amara Jackson

**Erwin Ryckman Scholarship**  
Chloe Stork

**Bill and Kay Scarlett Memorial Scholarship**  
Charlotte Hartges

**Margaret Scoutten and Raymond O. Nash Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Olivia Rodriguez Mitchell Yates

**Ronald K. Seelhoff Memorial Scholarship**  
Emma Smith

**Shiawassee County Bar Association, Patricia Carmody Memorial Scholarship**  
Samantha Thayer

**Joseph T. Sierzenga, III Memorial Scholarship**  
Steven Hagadon

**Robert G. Skinner Memorial Scholarship**  
Brooklyn Zakoor

**Stephen and Pauline Smith Family Scholarship**  
Austin Kelley Jillian Reddy

**John and Joan Spindler Family Scholarship- In Memory of John, Jennifer, & Jeri Spindler**  
Amara Jackson

**Devin Allen Swatman Memorial Scholarship**  
Gavin Holmes

**Roger and Marian Talbot Family Scholarship**  
Regan Kopesky

**Irene Turk Memorial Scholarship**  
Carly Pavka

**Iris (Turk) Lott Memorial Scholarship**  
Alaina Rouse

**Brad A. VanPelt Memorial Scholarship**  
Liam McGraw Corbin Thompson

**Carson James Vincent Memorial Fund**  
Alexis Spitzley

**Troy A. Vincke Memorial Scholarship**  
Madeline Eustace Cole Yaros

**Carl E. Voorhies and Kathryn D. Voorhies Memorial Endowed Scholarship**  
Regan Kopesky

**Mary Bea deBoom Wasper Scholarship**  
Corbin Thompson

**Debra Wegman Memorial Fund**  
Olivia Krejci

**Kevin A. Zmitko Agricultural Scholarship**  
Emma Challender Amara Jackson

**Zonta Club of Owosso Scholarship**  
Katherine Haun



*Congratulations!*

# Leave a Legacy That Lasts Forever



The Shiawassee Community Foundation is here to assist you in leaving a legacy by either donating to an existing fund or opening a fund that best fits your charitable interests. Each gift made, whether large or small, makes a lasting impact on our community.

Including the Foundation in your estate plan is a meaningful way to make a lasting gift to the community that may not be possible during your lifetime. You can bequeath cash, property, stocks, bonds, or name the Foundation as a beneficiary on your IRA, 401(k), or life insurance policy.

Leaving a legacy is easy!

## Welcome William "Bill" Lentz!

Please help us welcome our new YAC (Youth Advisory Council) Advisor, William "Bill" Lentz! Bill Lentz lives in the country north of Owosso with his wife, Robyn, and his daughter Mia. He also has two grown children, Hannah (Grand Rapids) and Gilby (Owosso). Bill has been an elementary teacher for 25 years. He has taught in Linden, Corunna, and is currently teaching Stem classes at Central Elementary in Owosso. Before teaching, Bill worked as a naturalist and camp director at Woldumar Nature Center and Kalamazoo Nature Center. He loves nature and photography and spends much of his summertime tending to a large garden.

Welcome Bill!



## Welcome Amanda Bruner!



Amanda Bruner is our new Program Manager at Shiawassee Community Foundation. She handles our social media, marketing, newsletters, design and assists with scholarships and grants. Welcome Amanda!

Amanda grew up near Lansing, lived in New Mexico for 15 years, and now calls Vernon her home. She and her husband, Brett, are renovating a downtown brick-and-mortar building across from Chase Bank in Vernon, and they have owned a leather goods business since 2014. Their family includes Sarge and Gabby, two Shiba Inu, and two ferrets, Grizzly and Hannibal.

Amanda is currently working towards her master's in Art History at Lindenwood University and has a passion for historic preservation. If you stop by and mention history or art to her, be prepared for a conversation!

She is excited to be part of the Shiawassee Community Foundation and RaiseUP Shiawassee.

**YOUR GIFT IS A PERMANENT SOURCE OF COMMUNITY  
FUNDING THAT MAKES GOOD WORK POSSIBLE, FOREVER**



## Honoring YAC Seniors

The Shiawassee Community Foundation wants to recognize our graduating YAC (Youth Advisory Council) seniors. As a group, we have five YAC members recognized as the top 10 from their high school, including two valedictorians and one salutatorian!

Congrats to:

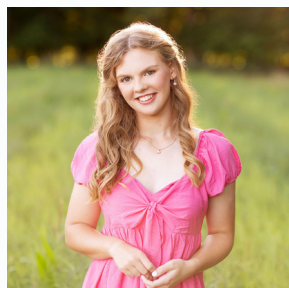
Owosso- Marisa Rose Valedictorian

Perry- David Zheng Valedictorian

Perry - Salutatorian- Annabelle Kue

Top 10: Jonah Smith (Perry), Victoria Kilgore (Perry)

The Shiawassee Community Foundation and your community are so proud of you!



Marisa Rose



Victoria Kilgore

not pictured Annabelle Kue

We also asked our graduating YAC seniors how YAC has impacted their lives. If you know someone age 12-21 who would like to be part of our Youth Advisory Council they can call the office at 989-725-1093 or email [amanda@shiacf.org](mailto:amanda@shiacf.org)



**Jonah Smith**  
**University of Michigan**  
**Biomedical Engineering.**

Jonah shared that YAC has helped him gain important experiences in leading, serving, and shopping for those in need.

ShiaCF has enjoyed assisting you in growing, and your community thanks you for serving!

**David Zheng**  
**University of Michigan**  
**STEM-related major**

David shared YAC allowed him to find ways to give back to his community and meet people from different backgrounds who share the same passions.

ShiaCF appreciates your service to your community & dedication to YAC!



## #ShiaCF in the Community



ShiaCF met with Looking Glass Community Outreach (LGCO) on April 27 after being awarded \$2,000 from the Alford and Alice Emmert Youth Fund for their Book Partner Program.



Shiawassee Community Foundation supported the following non-profit programs that focus on improving the quality of life in Shiawassee County during our winter grant cycle:

### Youth Advisory Council Awarded Grants

#### Emmert Youth Fund

Looking Glass Community Outreach- *Book Partners Program*  
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts- *Youth Programming*

#### W.K. Kellogg Fund

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties- *Community Closet*  
The ARC- *Summer Day Camp*  
Shiawassee Family YMCA- *Camp Shiawassee Summer Day Camp*  
DeVries Nature Conservancy- *Bench in Memorial of Dr. Skarich*

### Winter SCF Grants

#### Ryan Jones Memorial Fund

National Seating & Mobility, INC- *Wheelchair for ALS patient*

#### Memorial Healthcare Foundation

#### Community Health and Education Fund

Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts- *Youth Programming*  
Shiawassee County Agricultural Society - *AED Fairgrounds*  
Corunna Public Schools - *Stop the Bleed Program*  
Shiawassee Arts Council- *Mobile Arts for Seniors Program*  
Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee - *Respite Care Support*

#### **Madeline Eustace**

**Michigan State University**  
**Elementary Education**

YAC has helped Maddie grow as a person through making friendships while giving back to her community.

She shares, "I have been to so many amazing organizations that I never knew about until I joined YAC. Without YAC I would have never experienced any of these volunteer opportunities on my own."



ShiaCF and your community is extremely grateful to you for your passion and time spent with YAC!