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

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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
Kadene Robinson Kelsea Strzelecki-Davis

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
Juliana 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) Edginton Memorial Scholarship
Claire Buckley

Alford and Alice Emment Scholarship
Katlyn Cunningham Kayla Manley

Don and Becky Galloway Scholarship
Faith Allen Hayley Lademann

Cheryl Gapiski 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
Syndey Gillett Samantha Shenk

Eugene and Joyce Moles Memorial Scholarship
Madison Sheldon

Joann (Butcher) Nelson Memorial Scholarship
Natalie Thayer

New Lothrop Schools Endowment
Molly Eckholt

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 Pienjak Family Scholarship
Faith Allen Claire Buckley Kenzee DeFrenn

Ellie Feldpausch Lauren Gaskin Zachary Hinojosa

Joseph Huff Emma Johnson Regan Kopesky

Stella Passaw

LOG Roka Hannah Jane Sharkey Sawyer Shastal

Madison Sheldon Jonah Smith Naia Smith

Chloe Stork Natalie Thayer Rachel Warren

Jason Weber Lindsay Wendling Molly Winson

Cole Yaros Brooklyn Zakoor

Shirley (1936) and Joseph Poirier Memorial Scholarship
Paige Box Alyana Sipos

Kyler Raffaelli Memorial Scholarship Fund
Gavin Holmes

David A. Reed Agricultural Scholarship
Emma Challenger

Seth Blackburn

Evon James Reed Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Rehmann Memorial Scholarship
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 Scourtten 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. Sierzenz, III Memorial Scholarship
Steven Hagedon

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 Pavly

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 deBoon Wasper Scholarship
Corbin Thompson

Debra Wegman Memorial Fund
Olivia Krezci

Kevin A. Zmitko Agricultural Scholarship
Emma Challenger 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!

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.
**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!

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

**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!

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**#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

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  - The ARC - Summer Day Camp
  - Shiawassee Family YMCA - Camp Shiawassee Summer Day Camp
  - DeVries Nature Conservancy - Bench in Memorial of Dr. Skarich

**Madeline Eustace**
*Michigan State University*
*Elementary Education*

Madeline Eustace explains that 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!