

2007 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Osceola County Community Foundation, I would like to thank everyone for their support during 2007. With your help, the Foundation had a great year.

Our Annual Auction generated a new record for income during difficult financial times bringing in \$21,044. If you are interested in helping with this year's auction, please contact Larry Emig.

The Osceola County Community Foundation was a beneficiary of the John Outen Estate and received a gift of \$376,000. The generosity of community members never ceases to amaze members of our Foundation. The selling of the Baker property by the Board of Commissioners completed the cleanup project initiated and overseen by the Osceola County Community Foundation and financed by local businesses in the amount of approximately \$88,000. As of December 31, 2007, the assets of the Osceola County Community Foundation now total nearly three million dollars. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make our community a better place to live.

The work of the Foundation is carried out primarily by volunteers who either live in or work in Osceola County. There are over fifty volunteers who make up our committees and Board of Trustees. Their dedication has helped make our Foundation a success.

With the help of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors, the total net assets of the Foundation increased by 35 percent over the past twelve months. Our assets now total \$2.96 million as of December 31, 2007. We want to thank everyone who has made it possible to go from one million dollars in assets to nearly three million dollars in assets in just five years.

The Foundation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Fremont Area Community Foundation for the continued help and support it gives to the Osceola County Community Foundation.

The Board of Trustees is looking forward to working with all of you in 2008 so we can continue giving back to a community who has so graciously given to the Foundation.

Respectfully,

Joe Curtin, President

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Back row (left to right): Terry Gerber, Sally Nelson, Joe Curtin, Judge Susan Grant, Howard Hyde, and Larry Neiderheide

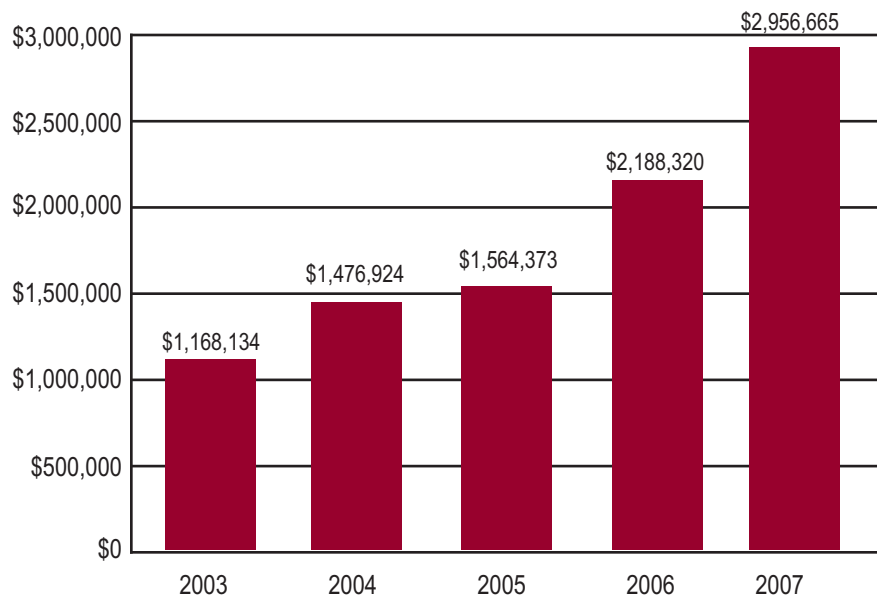
Middle row: Judy Hays, Marie Wilkerson, Dr. Amy Keller, Theresa Rasor, and Larry Emig

Front Row: Alan Bengry, Patti Sheldon, Ron Babb, and Lynn Salinas

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total Gifts.....\$701,313
 Total Grants Approved.....\$64,344
 Net Assets.....\$2,956,665

TOTAL NET ASSETS



2007 GRANTS

Each year, a portion of our endowment income is awarded to worthy applicants in the form of grants. The Osceola County Community Foundation awarded over \$64,000 to charitable organizations in 2007. Although the amounts of the grants varied, each recipient presented the OCCF with a project that would have a lasting effect on the Osceola County community and would fulfill the purpose of OCCF to enhance the quality of life for Osceola County citizens and visitors.

American Red Cross Mecosta-Osceola Chapter CPR manikins	\$ 2,000
Geraldine L. Anderson Scholarships	1,000
Babb Family Scholarship	1,000
Business and Professional Women's Scholarship	500
City of Reed City Fire Department communication upgrades	5,000
Music and Arts in the Park	3,000
Evert Downtown Development Authority Audio equipment for the Downtown Evert Musicale	3,000
Evert Public Schools Play at Recess	1,000
Industrial Scholarship	698
Rick and Cindy Johnson 4-H Scholarship	1,000
Speaker Rick Johnson Scholarship	500
Speaker Rick Johnson District 4-H Scholarship	500
Listen America Interactive substance abuse education program	1,000
Marion Public Schools Mini Grants for Educators	2,691
James F. McLachlan Scholarship	500
S.J. Martin Scholarship	500
Mecosta Conservation District 2007 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Project in Osceola County	1,000
Mecosta County Council on Aging RSVP program expenses	600
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc. Walk for Warmth Project	1,000
Osceola County Community Foundation Osceola County Community Foundation Ferris Scholarships	2,000
Osceola County Community Foundation Scholarships	802
Be A Santa	1,200

2007 GRANTS *CONTINUED*

Osceola County MSU Extension	
Osceola County recycling education	\$ 1,400
John and Mabel Outen Scholarships	3,000
Pathway of Hope Youth and Family Services	
Health and Nutrition program	800
Pine River Area Schools	
LeRoy Elementary sound equipment	3,200
Mini Grants for Educators	1,307
Tustin Elementary Girls on the Run program	500
Dave Porteous Scholarships	4,500
Recycle of Osceola County	
Equipment and construction	5,000
Reed City Public Library	
Children's book collection	1,500
Reed City Public Schools	
Family Nights program	2,165
Mini Grants for Educators	2,050
Reed City Rotary Scholarship	1,000
Rose Lake Youth Camp	
Registration fees and supplies for Osceola County youth	2,582
Spectrum Health	
Medical expenses for children from financially-disadvantaged families	500
The Salvation Army	
Rural Homeless Initiative	1,500
Trinity Lutheran School	
Laptop Computer Project	739
Mini Grants for Educators	800
Village of LeRoy	
LeRoy Farmers' Market	560
Women's Information Service, Inc.	
Community forum addressing the issues of domestic violence	750
Total 2007 Grants Approved	64,344
Prior Year Cancellations & Refunds	(12,018)
Total 2007 Grants	\$ 52,326

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD SCIENCE FAIR

The Mecosta-Osceola ISD's eleventh annual Regional and Science Engineering Fair was held March 27, 2007, on the campus of Ferris State University. The event showcased learning and the impact on the real world as its theme. Partners from throughout the area came together to share resources and consolidate services to promote education in math, science, and technology career paths for our students throughout the Mecosta-Osceola ISD local districts.



In the Governor's State of the State address, she was emphatic in her declaration that "Economists and experts across the country agree that education is the simple most effective strategy for stoking a state's economic growth."

Graduates from local districts who have gone on to jobs in the sciences such as plastic engineering, web design, and many others were on hand to share their stories and accomplishments. Representatives, educators, and students from programs and organizations as diverse as Mecosta-Osceola ISD's Math/Science/Technology Center, Mecosta-Osceola Career Center, Ferris State University programs, Mecosta County EMS, ANR Pipeline, Yoplait General Mills, Ice Mountain, Preference Dental, Department of Natural Resources, Artworks, and other area businesses manned booths where local students learned about the wide range of career paths that lead to high paying positions. These positions are critical if Michigan's and Osceola County's economy is going to compete and grow.

The OCCF grant funds aided the Mecosta-Osceola Math/Science/Technology Center outreach efforts to conduct what was believed to be the best Regional Science & Engineering Fair ever in March!!! This would not have been possible without OCCF's support. Part of the contribution was also used to take two finalists to the International Science & Engineering Fair in May. We are very proud of both of them. The first place recipient, an amazing female student from Morley, attained a third place internationally in her division!!

EVART AREA JOINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Evert Area Joint Fire Department extends its thanks to the Foundation for their support. The OCCF grant gave them enough funding, along with other donations, to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera for the Department. With all the donations received, they were able to purchase wireless capabilities along with a monitor to view from a distance what is happening in a fire or search. This equipment has already been utilized several times.

The camera will benefit the entire community assisting in quicker response time in finding and extinguishing fires.



PINE RIVER AREA SCHOOLS TRACK

Pine River Area Schools reported that their grant money was spent on the Lynx System (a timing device for track meets). The Lynx System is now installed at the Pine River Area School track and ready for the 2007-08 school year track events.



LEROY VILLAGE FARMER'S MARKET

The first season of the LeRoy Village Farmer's Market was highly successful. A small bulletin board afforded the local community an opportunity to advertise their services and to post information about Michigan farming, the importance of supporting our local farms, and purchasing locally grown food.

The market was set up on a LeRoy garage site for this first year. Each Saturday there was a festive air and many people expressed their gratitude for the market. In fact, one farmer wrote, "I have to say that of all the Farmer's Markets I have visited, LeRoy's is the most friendly and most adventurous. The vendors are happy, polite, and easy to work with. The atmosphere is pleasant and entertaining. The addition of arts, crafts, music, etc. is such a welcome addition. It is a work in progress, with market masters who are willing and capable to see into the future and develop not only a better farmer's market, but a community feeling for both vendors and buyers. I have not seen or felt that at any other market." Farmers are looking forward to the next season.



MICHIGAN 4-H FOUNDATION

A grant from the Osceola County Community Foundation brought 778 youths and adults from Osceola County to the Kettunen Center from September 2006 through July 2007. All participated in the 4-H TRACKERS Program focusing on building knowledge and understanding in natural science and ecology, identifying environmental quality problems and solutions, and learning to work cooperatively with others in order to make decisions and solve problems. Classrooms from Ewart, Tustin, Luther, LeRoy, and Reed City attended a one-day field trip. Activities included: compass reading and orienteering, forest study, hydrology, bird study, animal habitat examination, team building and many other activities. Children and parents attended family day at Kettunen Center to experience activities of outdoor and environmental education during the winter and spring seasons. A 4-H club from Osceola County participated in fall and spring learning activities at Kettunen Center and six Osceola young people attended the summer youth camp at an affordable cost.

The evaluations from the family day programs indicated strong interest in returning for future scheduled family events at Kettunen Center. The photos of students learning about orienteering and making apple cider last fall are shown above. Many of the classrooms that came to Kettunen Center this past school year had not been there before. In some cases, many years had passed since the school's last visit. Many would like to return if proper funding is secured.



FUNDS OF THE OSCEOLA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Geraldine L. Anderson Scholarship	Mecosta-Osceola United Way
William C. Andresen	Godfrey T. Norman Scholarship
Ross and Leota Babb Family Scholarship	The Old Rugged Cross Historical Society
Business and Professional Women's Scholarship	Olivia
Don Chase Memorial	Osceola County Community Foundation Administrative
Carolyn McLachlan Curtin Scholarship	Osceola County Community General
Davy Family Memorial	Osceola County Community Foundation Scholarship
Terry and Beulah Forsberg Fund for Pine River Area Schools	John and Mabel Outen Scholarship
Evan David Gogolin Special Needs, Family Support & Public Awareness	Dave Porteous Scholarship
Hawkins Handicapped Children	Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Prugh
Amy Hinkley Gregory Scholarship	Reed City Boy Scouts
The Hydaker-Wheatlake Company Fund for Community Betterment	Reed City Girl Scouts
Industrial Scholarship	Reed City Lions Club
Speaker Rick Johnson Scholarship	Reed City Lodge No. 705 Loyal Order of Moose
Speaker of the Michigan House, Rick Johnson	Reed City Parks and Civic Improvements
Speaker Johnson's District 4-H Scholarship	Reed City Rotary Scholarship
Rick and Cindy Johnson 4-H Scholarship	Reed City Senior Center
Kent-Bonsall Family	Reed City Tree
Lake-Osceola State Bank Community Support	Rose Lake Youth Camp
Leach Memorial	The Helen Ann Seger Memorial
The Maples Fund for the Needy	Lyle P. Seger
S. J. Martin Scholarship	SHA Reforestation
Masonic Lodge No. 363 Reed City	Trinity Lutheran School
James F. McLachlan Scholarship	VFW #2964/AMVETS #2965, Reed City
	Youth Endowment

IN LOVING MEMORY

Contributions were received in loving memory of the following individuals in support of various Osceola County agencies and organizations.

Mr. William C. Andresen
Mr. Arthur Banbury
Ms. Donna Borck
Mr. John Dankovich
Mrs. Nina Dayton
Mr. Eddie Decker

Ms. Violet Eichenberg
Mr. Paul Kilmer
Mrs. Jean C. Leach
Dr. Norman Lincoln
Marion E. Miller
Arlo Morgan

Mrs. Mildred Morlock
Mr. Donald J. Patterson
Ms. Alice Powers
Mrs. Reed C. Prugh
Mr. Gerald Stringer

PLANNED AND ESTATE GIFTS

A planned gift may be a will, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan, IRA, or annuity that benefits the Osceola County Community Foundation. We encourage donors to join those listed in remembering our community in their financial and estate planning. If you have made a plan benefiting OCCF, please let us know. We would like to recognize your generosity.

Dianne and Keith Eichenberg
Johnell and Richard LeBaron

Tania and Jon LeBaron
John and Mabel Outen
Evelyn and Bill Pruitt

Richard and Susan Saladin
Fred and Anna Smith
Ingrid and Francis Thacker

JOHN OUTEN

The OCCF was saddened by the passing early last year of John Outen just a few months before his 102nd birthday. John and Mabel (who preceded John in death) had established the John and Mabel Outen Scholarship Fund within the Osceola County Community Foundation.

John was becoming weaker physically but he was sharp mentally. He was a wealth of knowledge and was very interesting to speak with. I had the fortunate opportunity to visit with John on numerous occasions and I would describe him as follows:

A Man of Faith: He never believed that things “just happened” or were a coincidence. He believed that there was a purpose in everything. John didn’t always know what God had in mind but he knew God was in control and he was obedient.



A Humble Man: John really didn’t want to be in the limelight. He wasn’t seeking glory or fame. The good he did was for good and God’s sake rather than for John’s sake.

He Loved Life, Nature, and Things of Beauty: John had a green thumb. His fruit trees along with his vegetable and flower gardens were like no other. He was very proud of his flowers. John also had the best tomatoes around. You could also smell his lilac bushes for blocks.

He Had a Servant’s Heart: John certainly believed that it was more blessed to give than to receive as evidenced by his and Mabel’s support of a number of charitable organizations as well as the Community Foundation. He established the John and Mabel Outen Scholarship Fund. Since the fund was established, there have been twenty-two \$1,000 scholarships awarded. There will be four given out this school year to graduating seniors, one from each of the four schools in Osceola County.

A young man who was a recipient of one of the Outen scholarships shared at John’s funeral the following:

“Mr. Outen was a man of faith, first and foremost. As a recipient of this scholarship, I am deeply grateful to him for his generosity and concern in my personal well-being. An extraordinarily caring and intelligent person, Mr. Outen was a man who made you feel excited about the capability of a single human being to positively shape the world of others.”

With John’s passing, he bequeathed \$376,000 to be placed in the John and Mabel Outen Scholarship Fund. Many graduating seniors from the four schools in Osceola County will be assisted to help make their dreams come true.

Truly, John Outen did “make a difference” in our community and has helped to make this world a little richer. He will be missed.

- Larry Emig, Director of Development

SALLY NELSON AND TERRY GERBER

2007 ELECTED TRUSTEES FOR OCCF

The Osceola County Community Foundation welcomed Sally Nelson and Terry Gerber to the Board of Trustees in January 2007.



Sally Nelson hails from Tustin and has lived there her entire life. She graduated from Pine River High School and went on to attend Ferris State University. She began working at Lake-Osceola State Bank (LOS B) in 1988 as a part-time teller and has since become the branch manager for the LOSB Tustin office and an officer of the bank.

Although Sally puts in long hours at the bank, she still finds time to volunteer her efforts for many good causes. She is a member of the Wexford County Relay for Life, the St. Ignatius Church in Luther, and president of the Tustin Community Library Board based in Cadillac, the endeavor of which she is most proud. Tustin is a small community but it boasts a library with state-of-the-art technology and a wonderful selection of reading and study material for all ages.

When Sally was asked how she felt about becoming a trustee of the Osceola County Community Foundation, she stated, "I am very excited and proud to be a board member of a foundation that does such good works for the community and its people."



The Foundation is quite confident that Sally will be a key participant in continuing these good works through her hard work and dedication to a worthwhile cause.

Terry Gerber is a graduate of Reed City High School and has been a life-long resident of Osceola County. Terry attended University of Michigan and Ferris State University. He and his wife, Holly, reside in the Reed City area and have four adult children. Recently, they were blessed with their first grandchild. Terry enjoys spending time with family and friends at the lake.

For twenty-five years Terry worked with his father, Russ Gerber, at Gerber Construction. In 2001, Terry purchased the business and now manages Gerber Construction himself. Terry is a member of the Michigan Home Builders Association, the National Association of Home Builders, and the Reed City Chamber of Commerce. As an active member of the Reed City community, he still finds time to work with the Osceola County Community Foundation.

The Board of Trustees looks forward to working with Sally and Terry to help make Osceola County a great place to live. As trustees, Terry and Sally will enjoy the great experience of being members of an organization that gives back to Osceola County what others with great generosity have given to the Foundation.

TWENTY SENIORS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

During the month of May, OCCF Board members presented twenty (20) high school graduating seniors in Osceola County and one college student with scholarships totaling \$19,000 at their respective Award Assemblies. OCCF salutes these fine graduates on their high academic records. We wish them well in their endeavors to pursue higher educational knowledge.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Osceola County Community Foundation held its annual dinner meeting on March 13, 2007, at the Evert High School Cafeteria. Approximately 35 people were in attendance.

Newly elected President Joe Curtin welcomed all in attendance and introduced the OCCF Board of Trustees and Chairmen of the Foundation committees. Committee chairpersons answered audience questions concerning their annual reports.

President Curtin thanked everyone for their support of the Foundation and especially acknowledged the efforts of the community for their support in helping to clean up the junk trailer site on US-10 this past year. It was just wonderful to see so many people come together to help the community clean up such an eyesore. Curtin also expressed gratitude to those who give of their time, auction items, and financial support to help make the annual Foundation auction and dinner so successful.

Outgoing President Jerry Lindquist was the guest speaker. Jerry reviewed a number of highlights of OCCF's happenings during his tenure. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board and was especially grateful for the "founding fathers/mothers of the Foundation" whose community spirit, foresight and initial contributions helped to make the OCCF what it is today. As Jerry indicated, the Foundation is "For **Good**. For **Ever**."

CHIEF OSCEOLA AWARD RECIPIENTS

David Bonsall of Reed City and Ron Babb of Evert were honored with the Chief Osceola Award presented at the OCCF Annual Business Meeting March 13, 2007. The Chief Osceola Award is OCCF's highest award granted annually to individuals who are long-time supporters and/or dedicated volunteers of the OCCF.

Mr. Bonsall was thanked for his strong community spirit and financial gifts that will allow the Foundation to meet its mission by "improving the quality of life for the residents of Osceola County." With Mr. Bonsall's gifts, many organizations will continue to meet their mission in the community. The gifts also provide grant opportunities for many worthwhile non-profit organizations.

A big "Thank You" to Ron Babb for his relentless hours spent on spearheading the efforts to clean-up the Baker Property (junk trailers) site on US-10. Unfortunately, Osceola County was beginning to be known around the state as the "County with the Junk Trailers." Because of Ron's persistence, clean-up efforts were begun. He also spearheaded the clean-up effort. Ron indicated, "It is so rewarding to see a community come together for a cause of this magnitude." Osceola County is a better place to live thanks to the efforts of Ron Babb.

The OCCF wishes to express their sincere gratitude to David and Ron for their support of OCCF and concern for their community.



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Mr. and Mrs. Andrew T. Zimmer
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon W. Zimmerman
Marvin Zimmerman

FOUNDATION GIVING HELPS AT TAX TIME

Giving through your community foundation qualifies you for big savings through the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. For example, married donors, filing jointly, can receive a 50% tax credit of up to \$200 on a gift of \$400 to a permanent endowment fund. A single person can receive a \$100 tax credit on a gift of \$200 and Michigan businesses have the potential to receive up to a \$5,000 tax credit (not to exceed 5% of total Single Business Tax) on a gift of \$10,000.

For example a married couple in the 25% tax bracket and itemizing on their federal income tax could leverage \$150 into \$400:

Contribute to a Foundation endowed fund	\$400
Receive the Michigan Tax Credit	(\$200)
Receive the federal deduction	(\$50)
Net cost of contribution	\$150

A gift to any of the endowed funds at the Osceola County Community Foundation qualifies for the State Tax Credit.

LIVE WELL AND DO GOOD FOR OTHERS

A charitable gift annuity at the Osceola County Community Foundation is an ideal way to both live well and do good for others.

A charitable gift annuity pays a fixed income for life and benefits charity at the end of the annuitant's life. The current low interest rate environment continues to present attractive rates for donors seeking a gift annuity.

One benefit of aging is the increase in gift annuity interest rates. Older donors receive higher interest rates. Currently, a 70 year-old couple receives 5.9%. An 80 year-old couple receives 6.9%. Annuities for one life also pay higher rates. A single 70 year-old receives 6.5% and a single 80 year-old receives 8.0%.

Benefits of an Osceola County Community Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity:

- * Generous, partially tax-free income for life
- * An immediate income tax deduction
- * Reduced capital gain taxes if appreciated securities are used to establish the annuity
- * The satisfaction of making a significant contribution to the future of our local community

2007 AUCTION DONORS

Aflac/Hinkle-Witbeck Agency	Holihans Drug Store: Alan Bengry	Theresa Razor
Allen Chiropractic of RC	Chuck & Lori Holmquist	Reed City Area Public Schools
Anderson Insurance	Pete & Marilyn Hoogerhyde	Reed City GMC Truck
Baldwin Canoe Rental	Huntington Bank	Reed City Pizza Hut
Big Rapids Furniture	Ina Store	Al & Deb Remus
Carl Brasseur	Isabella Bank and Trust	Rose Golf Course
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Congressman Dave Camp	Dr. Amy Keller	Smith Lumber
Chemical Bank	Kettunen Center	Snip-N-Clip: Bobbi Estes
Citizen's Bank	Kienitz/Nix Memorials	Spectrum Health, Reed City Campus
Consumers Energy	Lake-Osceola State Bank	Spring Valley Golf Course
Joe & Carolyn Curtin	Dave and Christine Langworthy	State Representative Darwin Booher
Curves of Evert: Pete & Rebecca Ermatinger	Morris Langworthy, Jr.	Sunshine Carpets: Brian Allen
Details Salon: Jan Booher	Jon & Tania LeBaron	Sweet Shop
Drs. Nevins Family Dentistry: Drs. Bryan & Sharen Nevins	LeRoy Hardware	Tom Tavis
Duddles Tree Farm	Jerry Lindquist	Diane Thompson
Roger & Joyce Elkins	Ludington Beverage Co.	Jeff Thorne & P.T. Plus
Evert DDA	Jerry McQuestion	Patrick Tiedt
Evert Floral Boutique	Morgan Composting	Traverse Tall Ship Company
Evert Public Schools	Art Moyses	Traveler Motel
Dr. Pete and Lillian Fath	Sally Murrey	Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies
Fifth Avenue Style	OCCF YAC Group	Nelson & Dawn VanLeeuwen
Fowldog Kennels: Roger Meinert	Osceola County	Verplank
Gerber Construction	Paradise Salon: Mike & Nancy Brocker	Vic's Foodland: Ron & Mary Neal
Gondek's	Patterson's Flowers	Dan Vilwock
Grandma's Garden	Pere Marquette Catering	Voelker Implements
Susan & Donald Grant	Personal Touch of LeRoy	Jim White, Attorney
John Grix	Phil's County Line	White Pine Stables
Habitat for Humanity	Pompeii's Pizza	Frank & Marie Wilkerson
Jack & Judy Hays	Dave & Joan Porteous	The Fay & Jeannette Wilson Family
Hinkle-Witbeck Insurance Company	Powell's Grocery	Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative
Holiday Inn of Big Rapids	K.L. Rathburn Construction	Wright's Bakery
	Rack a Tack Ranch	Yoplait USA
	Kevin Rathburn	Brian & Karen Zais

The Mission of the Osceola County Community Foundation (OCCF) is to make Osceola County a better place in which to live and work by enhancing the quality of life and building a strong community spirit.



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Osceola County Community Foundation is an
affiliate of the Fremont Area Community Foundation
