Grants Help Fund Girls on the Run Program in Bay and Arenac Counties

Grants from the Civic League, Arenac Community Funds, and Arenac Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund allow Underground Railroad, Inc. to offset costs for girls in Bay and Arenac Counties.

It costs approximately $160 per girl to participate, and this includes new shoes, a t-shirt, and registration fees.

Girls on the Run inspires girls to “be joyful, healthy, and confident” by using “experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.”

Inside this issue

Bay Commitment Success Story
Lindsey Summers graduated from SVSU this fall with high honors thanks in part to Bay Commitment Scholarship. Her two siblings were also awarded the scholarship.

Helen Wirt Lee Back to School Program a Huge Success
More than 1,000 Bay County students received a full outfit for the first day of school thanks in part to grants from a number of BACF funds.

myTeam Triumph Receives Grant for Racing Chair
A new chariot allows another person with disabilities the opportunity to participate in local triathlons and road races.

Grants Help Fund Girls on the Run Program in Bay and Arenac Counties

Facade of philanthropy celebration
Honoring recipients of the Peggy Rowley Community Enrichment Award: The Wirt Family
Jack and Alice Wirt • Dr. Robert and Helen Wirt Lee
Steve and Dena Wirt • Doug and Victoria Wirt

Please RSVP
Monday, October 2, 2017 • 5:30pm
DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center, Bay City, Michigan

RSVP online at www.bayfoundation.org
On Monday, October 2, we will celebrate the 35 year anniversary of the Bay Area Community Foundation and honor the recipients of the Peggy Rowley Community Enrichment Award.

We hope you will join us to celebrate 35 years of donor support and community improvement on October 2, 2017 at our Faces of Philanthropy event. The celebration will include honoring the Alice and Jack Wirt Family with the Peggy Rowley Community Enrichment Award. The entire Wirt family—Jack and Alice, Dr. Robert and Helen Wirt Lee, Steve and Dena Wirt, and Douglas and Victoria Wirt—has shared their time, talent, and resources for the benefit and improvement of their community and its residents. The event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City at 5:30 p.m.

BACF was established in April 1982 with a $56,000 grant from the Kantzler Foundation. Today BACF has more than $36 million in endowed assets and has granted over $34.5 million dollars to nonprofits and for educational scholarships in Bay and Arenac Counties.

The Wirt Family has generously supported local organizations and the people they serve, including the United Way of Bay County, the Literacy Council, Hidden Harvest, the Boys and Girls Club, the Bay Area Women’s Center, Temple Israel, and the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The Peggy Rowley Community Enrichment Award was created in 1996 to honor Peggy Rowley's service to the community and her philanthropic way of life. The Award is presented every other year. Past recipients include Robert Sarow, Ronald McGillivray, Ralph Powell, Leopold Kantzler, Jerome Yantz, Ruth Jaffe, Thomas Tabor, Guy T. Moulthrop, Donald Carlyon, Charles Curtiss, Richard Somalski, Edith “DeeDee” Wacksman, Meade Gougeon, and Linda Heemstra.

Tickets are $60 per person and can be reserved by calling 989-893-4438 or visiting www.bayfoundation.org.

Helen Wirt Lee Back to School Clothing Program Provides More Than 1,000 Children with an Outfit for the First Day of School

More than $17,000 was granted from the Bay Area Community Foundation to the United Way of Bay County for their annual Helen Wirt Lee Back to School Program. Eligible children receive a bag with a full outfit—down to the underwear, socks, and shoes they need. At an average of $65 per child, these funds provided for more than 260 kids!

Grants were provided from the Civic League, Youth Advisory Committee, Northern Bay County Fund, Women’s Philanthropy Circle, and Men’s Philanthropy Group. The Bay Area Community Foundation is honored to be a part of this successful event that provided for more than 1,000 Bay County children!
First of Three Bay Commitment Siblings Graduates with High Honors

The Bay Commitment Scholarship has awarded more than $2 million to first-generation students from Bay County pursuing higher education. In 2013, Lindsey Summers was the first of her family to go to college, and this year she was the first to graduate. Thanks in part to the Bay Commitment Scholarship, her siblings Breanna and Nathan aren’t far behind.

Established in 2008, the Bay Commitment Scholarship awards to first-generation college students from Bay County attending either Delta College or Saginaw Valley State University. To date, the Bay Area Community Foundation has granted nearly $2 million to help these students further their education.

Lindsey graduated from SVSU summa cum laude with a major in Professional Accountancy and a lot of professional experience. “My college experience was many things: challenging, inspiring, and valuable to name a few,” Lindsey told us. “The scholarships lessened the financial burden of tuition, which allowed me to be more involved.” Lindsey graduated debt-free and is now studying for the CPA exam. “I really am learning that in order to succeed, it is essential to never give up.”

Her sister Breanna received the Bay Commitment scholarship in 2015 and attends SVSU, soon to start in the Nursing program. “I truly look forward to many years to come at SVSU and thank BACF for all the help getting me to where I am today!” Breanna said. Their brother Nathan received the Bay Commitment Scholarship this year and starts at Delta College this fall.

“I know my family, specifically my siblings, are extremely thankful,” Lindsey said, “The scholarship has helped our family out tremendously.”

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myTeam Triumph’s New Wheelchair Grants New Opportunities

A grant from the Nathalie Awrey Memorial Fund provided a new wheelchair for individuals with disabilities to participate with runners in endurance races for the first time.

myTeam Triumph brings smiles to faces in unique ways—by allowing children and adults with disabilities to participate in endurance races for the first time in their lives.

“The impact of this program is life-changing not only for our Captains (individuals with disabilities), but also for our Angels (the running athletes) and our volunteers,” says Deb Militello. myTeam Triumph is an athletic ride-along program with a goal of enriching the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities by fostering lasting, authentic relationships through teamwork.

Thanks to a grant from the Bay Area Community Foundation’s Nathalie Awrey Memorial Fund, the Great Lakes Bay chapter was able to purchase a Phoenix running chair. Prior to this, they would have to borrow wheelchairs from other regions, requiring a volunteer to drive up to six hours round-trip. Due to the growing popularity, myTeam Triumph wants to make sure to respond to the increasing interest so that all who want to can participate.

“The gift of giving to someone else, putting them first and allowing them to be the focus while still treating them like the individual they are is truly special!” writes one of the Captain’s guardians. The guardian went on to say, “He has been getting more and more confident over the last year, but this has really helped him the last couple of months. Thank you!”

The chair provided by the Bay Area Community Foundation has already allowed a Captain to participate in seven local races, with more soon to come.

“It is truly an amazing experience to know that you are making a difference in someone’s life by giving them an opportunity that has never been possible,” said Deb.

Give the Gift of a Lifetime: Tax-free Charitable IRA Rollover

We can make your charitable IRA transfer easy, flexible and effective, helping you achieve your personal charitable and financial goals. You can transfer excess retirement assets directly and easily to the Bay Area Community Foundation. The transaction incurs no federal income tax, and the asset is no longer part of your estate for tax purposes. You can choose to give during your lifetime so that you (and your community) can see results sooner than if your gift had been made through the plan.

Larger estates face confiscatory tax rates that significantly reduce the amount left to their heirs (other than a spouse). Any amounts left in an IRA when an individual dies may be taxed as income to the beneficiary and are also considered assets for the purpose of calculating that person’s estate tax liability. When you give your IRA to charity, your heirs are not burdened by the taxes associated with receiving your IRA upon your death. Instead, you can leave them other assets that have a more favorable tax treatment.

How it works:

• You make a gift of up to $100,000 by transferring IRA assets to your community foundation. You must be 70 1/2 years old. If married, each spouse can transfer up to $100,000 from his or her IRA.
• Your gift can be placed into a charitable fund in your name, the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose. We handle all administrative details.
• Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested and will grow over time. Grants addressing community needs will be made forever.
**Vaccinations Allow More Dogs to be Fostered and Adopted**

A $821 grant from the Animal Welfare Endowment Fund helped offset costs for the more than 90 dogs that have been vaccinated at the Humane Society of Bay County so far this year.

“Properly vaccinating dogs is our first line of defense when it comes to preventing the spread of communicable diseases,” says Stephanie Beiser, Canine Program Coordinator at the Humane Society of Bay County. “It is especially important in puppies and senior dogs who are most susceptible to illness.”

The Humane Society frequently receives calls from those who need to surrender their beloved dog or who have taken in stray dogs but are unable to keep them. Because there is not a No Kill Shelter in Bay County, these dogs are taken to Bay County Animal Control where there’s a possibility of euthanasia due to space and time limitations.

That is why it is essential for the Humane Society to have funds available for vaccinations so that they can move these dogs to foster homes until a permanent home is found. Their dog foster program began in 2015 and is a vital step needed to create this No Kill Shelter.

“The Humane Society of Bay County is dedicated and determined to one day open a No Kill Shelter for adoptable, treatable animals in Bay County,” says Jeannie Wolicki-Nichols, president at the Humane Society.

In the meantime, they have a goal to get as many of these dogs into the foster program as possible so they can be adopted into the community. One such example is Liam, a brindle boxer puppy, who came from animal control. Now that he has his vaccinations, he is being adopted to a loving family.

In the Spring 2017 grant cycle, the Animal Welfare Endowment Fund granted $821 to provide as many vaccinations as possible for dogs like Liam.

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**2017 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
Key Dates: 2017 BACF Grants Deadlines
Did you know that the Bay Area Community Foundation administers several grant programs throughout the year?

See bayfoundation.org for more details about the various grants available.

Bay Area Community Foundation Semiannual Grants
October 2nd

Leslie L. Squires Foundation
October 2nd

Dow communityGives
Ongoing

Dow Corning Donor Advised Fund
November 1st

Dow Chemical Donor Advised Fund
September 15th

Questions? Feel free to contact Joni King at the BACF office at 989.893.4438.

The Bay Department of Public Safety Youth Leadership Academy earned a Dow communityGives grant for volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

BACF Staff
Eileen Curtis, President & CEO
Sue Jensen, Director of Finance
Renee Aumock, Senior Program Officer
Lisa Bourdon-Krause, Donor Relations Officer
Joni King, Program Officer
Kirsten McIlvenna, Program Officer
Aaron Faist, Program Officer
Kacie Hugo, Administrative Associate

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.