Attention Class of 2019 & Current College Students: Scholarship Applications are Now Available

Bay Area Community Foundation’s scholarships are now available to any current high school senior, college student, or adult wishing to pursue post-secondary education in the fall of 2019. Applications are available online at www.bayfoundation.org/students and are due March 4, 2019.

Complete scholarship criteria is also available on the website, and students may apply for up to 15 different scholarships with just one application!

BACF scholarships are awarded from endowment funds established by families, civic organizations, and businesses in our area. Students are encouraged to visit the Great Lakes Bay College & Career Resource Center, located on the first floor of the Pere Marquette Depot at 1000 Adams. Advisors are available to help students find and apply for scholarships and navigate the financial aid process.

To schedule an appointment, call (989) 893-6026.

Application deadline is March 4, 2019

Inside This Issue

We are . . . Better Together
You’re a pretty big deal! See how your generosity has helped make a difference this year in Bay and Arenac counties.

Bay Commitment Success Story Highlight: Marissa Geyer
Awarded the Bay Commitment Scholarship in 2010, Marissa is now an attorney serving in Lansing, Michigan.

Brother and Sister Honored with Memorial Scholarship
The Henry & Irene Linkowski Memorial Scholarship fund was set up to honor their generous spirits.
When 1 + 1 = 3

I was recently reading about the arithmetic of making a difference. It’s a simple concept really. Combine two or more people in pursuit of a common cause and suddenly one plus one equals more than two. It’s synergy—the interaction of elements that, when combined, produces a total effect that is greater than the sum of individual contributions.

Let’s look at a few ways in which this community has demonstrated the arithmetic of making a difference.

**BCF and Nonprofits** – Through the combined efforts of our donors, more than $1.1 million has been invested this year in nonprofit agencies throughout Bay and Arenac counties to support arts and culture, health and human services, education, recreation, community initiatives, and the environment.

**BCF and Students** – Celebrating its 10th anniversary year, the Bay Commitment Scholarship program has provided $2 million to help 1,000 first-generation college students pursue their academic dreams. This is in addition to the more than 2,000 lives impacted annually through services provided by our Great Lakes Bay College and Career Resource Center.

**BCF and Visionaries** – Thirteen new funds have been established and more than $2.5 million have been raised this year. We give thanks to all of these visionary donors . . . those who gave from their assets and those who gave from their change purses. The impact of these gifts will be felt for generations to come.

**BCF and YOU!** Each of us has something to give, and each of us plays a unique part in the sum of individual contributions.

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Better together,

Diane M. Fong, President & CEO

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**2018 Business Sponsors**

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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**
In addition to years of hard work and determination, Marissa Geyer credits the support of her family as a key factor in achieving her dream of becoming a lawyer. “My family was very supportive,” she said. “My parents helped pay for books and groceries. It was difficult for them, but they knew it was important for me.”

Marissa’s great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was born and raised in Texas. In eighth grade, he dropped out of school to start working to provide for his family. He hoped this would allow future generations to gain access to the education they deserved.

He married and had seven children—Marissa’s mother being one of them—and the whole family traveled each year to Michigan as migrant workers to pick cherries and potatoes. Eventually, her grandfather got a job with General Motors, and they moved to Bay City. Yet, they were still very poor and learned to ration their food. Marissa’s mother often referred to them as the “have nots.”

Growing up in Bay City, Marissa knew this story well. But even though her grandfather continuously told her how important education is, she never thought she would be able to attend college. She said her family knew nothing about college, and they didn’t have money to pay for it.

But with help from the Bay Commitment Scholarship, doors began opening. Once at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), she built important relationships with mentors that became essential in helping her navigate this new world.

Throughout her academic career, her family has supported her in any way they could—and her grandfather’s sacrifice stuck with her as motivation to keep going. She said it was a big deal for her to be the first to earn a degree. When she was admitted to the bar, her whole family was there to congratulate her.

As an attorney, she wants to use her knowledge and skills in the community to help marginalized groups. “They need help just as much as anyone else, but they can’t afford the resources or legal advice that others can,” she said.

Marissa works as a staff attorney at Legal Services of South Central Michigan in Lansing, an organization that provides free civil legal assistance to low income persons.

She encourages other first-generation students to also find their passions and follow their dreams: “Don’t listen to those who try to stop you. Stay true to yourself and find people along the way who will be supportive of your goals.”

During the 10th Anniversary of the Bay Commitment Scholarship, we are sharing 10 stories of success from past recipients. Read them all and donate at www.bayfoundation.org/BCsuccess
This year you helped award more than $1.1 million to local nonprofits and agencies to support arts and culture, health and human services, environment, education, recreation, and community initiatives. We are Better Together.

BACF & NONPROFITS

BACF & STUDENTS

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Bay Commitment Scholarship has helped 2,000 first-generation college students pursue their academic dreams. Read 10 stories of student success at www.bayfoundation.org/bcsuccess.

BACF & VISIONARIES

BACF & YOU

Thanks to people like you, it has been an incredible year for our Bay Area. The impact of your gift today will be felt for years to come. Together we can ensure that there will always be funds available to meet the future’s pressing needs and promising opportunities. With you, we are Better Together.

Make a gift today by sending a check, calling us at 989-893-4438, or donating online at www.bayfoundation.org/bettertogether.

If you wish, we can work with you and your financial advisor to help you make a gift through a bequest, life insurance policy, or other planned gift. For more information, call our office at 989-893-4438.

Give online at www.bayfoundation.org/bettertogether.

The Elizabeth J. Husband Fund was started to honor her love of the holidays. Each year these holiday grants bring joy and peace to families. This is how Elizabeth J. Husband will be remembered. What will your legacy be?
Brother & Sister’s Generous Spirit Lives On

In honor of their generous spirits, the Henry & Irene Linkowski Memorial Scholarship was established with the remainder of their estates to provide opportunities to local students.

If you had met brother and sister Henry and Irene Linkowski, you would have quickly learned of their strong faith, great pride in their Polish heritage, love of travel, and generous hearts. But because of their unassuming nature, you might not have realized just how generous they were.

Their niece was sorting their house after they passed, and she found boxes filled with countless thank you cards they had received. She was overwhelmed—she never knew how much they had given in their lifetime.

Having never married and with no children of their own, Henry and Irene wished for a large portion of their estates to go to charities. After distributing funds to numerous nonprofits, their niece came to the Bay Area Community Foundation to invest the remainder of the sum in a scholarship fund to honor Henry and Irene’s legacy.

“Henry and Irene would be overjoyed and honored to know their efforts of hard work would be supporting young people with an education to become leaders in their own communities,” their niece said.

The Henry & Irene Linkowski Memorial Scholarship will award its first scholarships this spring to students attending a Michigan college or university. Because the scholarship is endowed at the Foundation, the Linkowskis’ incredible generosity will continue forever, providing young people with new opportunities.

Read their full story and see more pictures at www.bayfoundation.org.

Bringing Sight to Vision Issues in Children

Bay Area Community Foundation awarded $11,500 to the Lions of Michigan Foundation for their KIDsight Mobile Vision Screening Unit.

Nearly 10% of all preschool age children in Michigan have an undiagnosed vision disorder that, if left untreated, will affect their ability to learn and develop normally. Identified early enough, vision abnormalities can be treated, but if they go undetected, a child’s vision can deteriorate and vision loss can be irreversible.

Last year, the Youth Advisory Committee and The Dow Chemical Company Donor Advised Fund awarded a total of $11,500 to the Lions of Michigan Foundation for their KIDsight Mobile Vision Screening Unit to get more children tested and connected with the vision help they need.

Lions Club volunteers attend community events and connect with local childcare programs to use a special screening device that quickly and accurately detects vision problems. Because it is the size of a camera, many small children simply think they are getting their photo taken—an approach that keeps them more at ease.

Because of the sunlight sensitivity of the device, it must be used indoors. The mobile trailer allows the group to attend outdoor community events to conduct even more screenings.

In the past year, they have checked the vision of more than 14,000 children and identified 1,659 children with previously unknown vision problems.

“We are extremely grateful for the Bay Area Community Foundation’s support,” said Lions of Michigan Foundation Director Chad A. McCann. “We will be able to significantly increase our screenings in the Bay Area and help more children struggling with vision loss.”
During the 10th Anniversary of the Bay Commitment Scholarship, Pere Marquette Depot was there to congratulate her. Throughout her academic career, her family has supported her in any way they could—and her grandfather’s sacrifice stuck with her as motivation to keep going. She said it was a big deal for her to be the first in her family to graduate from college, and they didn’t have money to pay for it.

In eighth grade, he got a job with a farm employing migrant workers to pick cherries and potatoes. Eventually, her grandfather got a job with a coring machine manufacturing company and learned to manage a large team. They were still very poor and learned to ration any money they had left over.

It was not easy for them, but they knew it was worth it. They realized that education was key to a better future. They wanted their children to have more opportunities. Her grandfather had immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was a part of that wave. Marissa’s great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was a part of that wave. Marissa’s great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was a part of that wave. Marissa’s great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was a part of that wave. Marissa’s great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and her “Grandpa Torres” was a part of that wave.

“My parents helped pay for books and groceries,” said Marissa. “It was difficult for them, but they knew it was worth it. They realized that education was key to a better future. They wanted their children to have more opportunities.” Marissa’s family has been supportive of her goals from the beginning. She encourages other first-generation students to also find their support system to keep going. They need help just as much as anyone else, but they can’t afford the assistance to low income persons.

In addition to years of hard work and determination, Marissa Geyer credits the Bay Area Community Foundation with helping her achieve her dream of becoming a lawyer. The Bay Commitment Scholarship in 2010, Marissa went on to receive a bachelor’s degree from Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) through the College of Arts and Sciences and a Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She is now an attorney serving in Lansing, Michigan.

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.