Our 4th Annual Day to Celebrate Bay and Arenac County Nonprofits

Save the Date:
May 1, 2018

Save the date and do your part to support our local nonprofits. On this annual day of giving, nonprofits will be eligible to receive additional funds through an incentive pool and extra prizes to help grow their endowment funds. Supporting these organizations on this day helps ensure that these organizations will be around to make our community thrive for many years to come! Make sure to “like” our page on Facebook to follow along with the festivities: facebook.com/bayareacommunityfoundation

www.givelocalbay.org

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GED Success Story
Meet Forest Bradley who earned his GED to pursue his dream of being a firefighter and a positive role model in his son’s life.

Standish-Sterling Kids on a Healthy Track
Discover how students are using new heart rate monitors in gym class to learn and practice healthy habits.

How to Communicate Planned Giving Wishes to Your Family
Learn how to approach an important conversation with your loved ones about your planned giving.
We are **better together**.

_Better together._ This is the theme that will guide the work of the Bay Area Community Foundation in 2018.

_Better together_ represents the thousands of donors who have come together in support of Bay and Arenac counties. This support has resulted in $40 million in endowed assets, a number that is significant because of what it allows us to do—build a vibrant community. These funds are not from one family, nor one company. They represent the generosity of all of you who are united by a commitment to our community.

Look around, and you will see hard-working individuals who dedicate every day to building this community. We are incredibly fortunate to have passionate and talented nonprofit leaders here. With your support, BACF has invested more than $38 million over the years for these agencies to help our area thrive. We are **better together**.

Our board of trustees, our staff, and myself…we are all just temporary stewards of an extraordinary community asset. Thank you for your trust in us and for allowing us the opportunity to connect you to the causes you care about.

**Let us help you put your money where your heart is.**

- Your gift.
- Your dream.
- Your legacy.

**OUR community.**

**Better together,**

_Diane M. Fong_, President & CEO

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**Help Us Clean-up the Riverwalk/Railtrail on April 28**

We are looking for volunteers to help clean up along the Riverwalk/Railtrail so that all can enjoy another season of biking, walking, and running along our trails.

Volunteers should check in at Veterans Memorial Park, beginning at 9:00 am. Registration is appreciated, particularly if you are signing up a team of participants, but not required. The event will conclude by noon.

Garbage bags and lawn equipment will be provided by the Bay City Parks Department. We recommend dressing for the weather and bringing along garden gloves. Refreshments will be available.

The Riverwalk/Railtrail was established and is funded by the Bay Area Community Foundation. The 17.5-mile trail system is a cooperative partnership between all municipalities, park departments, the Bay County Road Commission, and the Bay Area Community Foundation’s Riverwalk/Railtrail Committee.

Please contact us at 989.893.4438 to sign up.
You Help Pinconning Park to Shine!

Through several grants and collaboration from local students, community members, and businesses, Pinconning Park is now a thriving space where you can enjoy all the land has to offer.

It should come as no surprise that as a whole, our culture is spending more and more time viewing screens and less time viewing nature. Those in the Northern Bay Area sought to change that.

“We thought people had an interest in nature but just needed to be reawakened to it,” says Mike Stoner, who serves on the Northern Bay Community Fund Committee and who is also an active part of the annual Nature Festival. “As we suspected, the interest was always there.”

In the last couple of years, grants from Bay Area Community Foundation to Bay County’s Pinconning Park allow visitors to connect more with our natural landscape. A grant of $3,930 from the Northern Bay Community Fund was awarded to create signage to promote the park and interpretive signs throughout.

A grant from the Environment Fund also provided a new viewing scope to allow a close-up view of nature from afar. The viewing scope is free to the public.

The funds helped get the project going, but it was truly the community that made it successful.

“It’s all a part of a bigger picture,” Mike said. “Lots of organizations and individuals work together to show how important our land is and how fortunate it is that we live in an area that has these opportunities.”

Through a collaboration of students, community members, organizations, and local businesses, Pinconning Park is a place where you can truly see the Bay Area thrive. It is community efforts like these that help protect our natural resources for future generations to enjoy forever.

Heart Rate Monitors Have Kids on a Healthy Track!

The idea of running around a gym or playing basketball may not be appealing for all. Such was the case for some children at Standish-Sterling Central Elementary—that is until they started using heart rate monitors.

The Arenac County Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund awarded $1,000 for a classroom set of heart rate monitors and tracking software. Each student is assigned a wristband to use in class and a profile to record activity. This data is then emailed to parents each night to get them more involved in their children’s physical health.

During class, students’ heart rates and zones are projected onto the wall, so they can see where they are at. Their teacher, Jennifer O’Dell, challenges them with different exercises to get their heart rate up.

“I like it because I can tell if I need to take a break if my heart rate is too high,” says fifth-grader Sidney, “Or if I need to move faster.”

Another student, who refused to go to gym class, now sees it as a video game. He self-motivates to move fast enough to get into the different color heart rate zones. Now, the challenge isn’t to get him to come to class: it’s to get him to cool down at the end of it.

“Our goal with physical education is that each child learns to do their personal best,” says Jennifer, “allowing them the potential for a healthy future.”
How Do I Communicate My Planned Giving Wishes to My Family?

Openly share your charitable wishes to avoid misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

In some families, charitable giving is a way of life, seamlessly interwoven into the core fabric of the family dynamic. However, for many others, sharing financial and estate planning decisions with those closest to them can be difficult.

Sharing your plans now may avoid misunderstandings and hurt feelings later. Here are a few tips to clearly communicate your wishes to your loved ones:

- **Decide who is to be considered “family.”** Carefully determine the family members who may need to be involved.
- **Schedule your discussion around an occasion that celebrates your life and your family,** such as an anniversary or birthday, when it’s natural for you to talk about life’s milestones and what’s important to you.
- **Be forthright about your desires and your limitations.** You may feel more comfortable and communicate more effectively if a trusted advocate—such as your attorney, financial advisor, or minister—is present and can objectively support what you say.
- **Share what you intend to accomplish through your financial plans.** Common objectives include preserving wealth, avoiding excessive taxes, passing wealth to the next generation, sustaining a family business, or continuing philanthropic work after you’re gone.
- **Express its importance to you.** Explain again how planned giving is an extension of your life’s work and how it meets your charitable or financial objectives.

You may find that what you presumed to be a family hesitant to embrace your wishes is actually a circle of loved ones who support you—and one another—in the important life decisions you’ve made.

**We are happy to work with you on your plans for charitable giving. Call us at 989.893.4438 to set up an appointment.**

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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
**His Desire to Give Back to the Community Inspired His GED**

The Great Lakes Bay College and Career Resource Center helped Forest Bradley to prepare for and take his GED test so that he could be a firefighter.

“I was and am very motivated for this,” says Forest Bradley about being in the Fire Academy. “I wanted to get in and feel accomplished, which doesn’t happen very often for me.”

Forest’s life hasn’t been the easiest, but he can say that he’s worked hard for everything he has.

When Forest was 15 years old, family issues arose, and he chose to drop out of high school in order to work full time to help support his family.

He worked various jobs for many years but always had an itch to do something more. Partially because his father had, Forest wanted to fight fires and help others. He also wanted to give his son Colton a positive role model.

“I wanted to do something for the community and help out,” he said with a big smile.

But desire itself is not all it takes to be a firefighter. You need to have endurance and strength, along with a wealth of knowledge. You must be able to carry a heavy load—on top of the additional 50 pounds for the protective gear alone.

When Forest first became interested in attending the Fire Academy, he weighed 320 pounds and was winded just climbing the tower at Tobico Marsh where they do the testing. So, it took a lot of determination to succeed.

“I was the heaviest; now I’m the fastest,” he proudly said. He finished his Candidate Physical Abilities Test with the fastest score of the group and only missed two questions on his written exam.

But that wasn’t his only obstacle. To be a firefighter, you also need a high school degree. This is how he found himself at our Great Lakes Bay College and Career Resource Center seeking help with his GED testing. He studied profusely and finished all the subjects in record time. Now, he’s applying for scholarships to go to Delta College so he can continue his education with fire sciences and paralegal degrees.

Forest’s GED testing was paid for through BACF’s Men’s Philanthropy Group. This group, the Women’s Philanthropy Circle, and Walmart have provided funds for students to earn their GED. Once they pass a practice test for each subject, students can apply through the Resource Center for a voucher to take the official test for free. The Resource Center has funded 23 GEDs for men and women across the region, each with their own story.

BACF is proud to help individuals achieve their dreams as we work alongside other organizations that help contribute to our community’s successes.

In May, Forest will be a firefighter, working hard to give back to the community who has helped give him much.

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**A Safe Space for a Home-cooked Meal**

The Bay Area Women’s Center strives to make its emergency shelter feel as much like a home as possible. But after 15 years of constant use from families, the residential style kitchen was no longer the safest and most efficient option.

BACF granted $10,000 from the Community Initiative Fund and $15,000 from the Herzog Family Donor Advised Fund toward a $100,000 kitchen renovation project.

As of this month, the kitchen is ready for residents to use with:

- Washable walls and ceilings
- Durable and sanitary stainless steel counter tops and shelving
- Commercial dishwasher to reduce time and energy use for large volumes
- Commercial range with double oven and hood for top-notch safety
- Walk-in refrigerator and freezer

“We didn’t have enough room for cold food storage before,” said Jeremy Rick, executive director. “Sometimes, we had to turn down food donations or a good deal at the food bank for lack of storage space.”

Now, that’s not an issue, and there is plenty of space to stock fresh and healthy food for residents. Residents also have a safe space where they can cook their own food and bring a little normalcy to a tough time.
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