



# volunteer **VOICE2019**

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a geographic affiliate of the Barry Community Foundation



# DEAR COMMUNITY

This year, the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation distributed almost \$46,000 in scholarships and over \$13,000 in grant dollars. This is the largest amount in our 26 years! These dollars have created a real impact on our students, our community, and the legacy that we are fostering in the Middleville Area.

In September, we celebrated Don Williamson as our 2019 Hometown Hero Award recipient. Don is a very passionate supporter of the Arts. Don along with his wife, Cathy, created the Donald and Catherine Williamson Visual and Performing Arts Fund. Donations received at the Hometown Hero Dinner were received for their fund. Annually, a Thornapple Kellogg Senior will be awarded a scholarship to study visual arts, performing arts, or communications.

Our 2018 Hometown Hero award recipients, Scott and Deb McKeown, provided TAEF with a \$5,000.00 matching donation to be utilized for community grants. 35 donors helped us secure the \$5,000.00 match from the McKeown Family. The TAEF Board of Directors is utilizing the funds from the McKeown Family to sponsor the Summer of 2020 Family Outdoor Movie Nights at the newly constructed pavilion in downtown Middleville. We are very thankful to our donors for playing a pivotal role in building a stronger community.

When you donate to TAEF you create a ripple effect throughout our community. Families can come together to watch movies under the summer stars, High school seniors can earn scholarships to make post-secondary education more affordable, teachers can purchase items to enhance the educational experience. TAEF is using your gifts to inspire ideas and ignite action! We look forward to working with you in 2020 to continue to cultivate a strong community, now and forever.



Kristen Cove, TAEF President



# DON WILLIAMSON 2019 HOMETOWN HERO

Don Williamson's friends know him as a quiet man - not one to boast or talk about all he's done for the community. He takes pride in his community and family and is more than willing to take an active role to give back to his community and his school. Those qualities and his continued service to the community and Thornapple Kellogg Schools made him an easy choice to be named this year's Hometown Hero by the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation.

Don is most proud of his role as a founding member and the first president of the Thornapple Kellogg Alumni Association, founded about three years ago. "To watch it grow in such a short time is my reward," he said. "I've used this district for myself as a place to grow up, but I've put back into it as well. It's called giving back."

As one of 49 members of the TK Class of 1957, Don's also been instrumental in establishing and awarding the Class of '57 Scholarship every year. He and his wife, Cathy, also started their own Art Scholarship awarded annually through the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation.

He's been a member of the Middleville Rotary, Lions, Lincoln Meadows Senior Living board, Thornapple Arts Council, and Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation and at one time served as president of each organization. He also served 20 years on the TK Board of Education and was able to hand each of his four children their diplomas.

Don said Thornapple Kellogg Schools and the Middleville community have left an impression on his life and for that he will be forever grateful. He volunteers every year to be part of the Career Fair at Page Elementary School and talks to students about finding their passion and a meaningful career. He tells them about his former

high school art teacher, Edna Bender, who strongly encouraged him to pursue an art degree.

Don earned his fine arts degree from Kendall School of Art and Design and later a master's in fine arts from Western Michigan University. After working nine years in advertising and marketing, he returned to Kendall to become a professor and then later served as the Dean of Faculty for 29 years.

His art teacher wasn't the only one he remembers playing a large role in his life. During high school, Williamson was a decorated athlete earning four varsity letters each in baseball and track and three each in football and basketball. But it was baseball where major league scouts came to watch him and he eventually signed with the Detroit Tigers organization, playing with the Sullivan's in the Grand Rapids City Majors - a minor league team.

While he's been retired for several years, Don said art is still a big part of his life. "Painting or drawing every day is high on my list of me being me," he said. "I paint for myself mostly - I give some of my paintings away and sell a few."

He teaches art through TK's community education programs and offers private lessons from time to time. Don's most visible art is "The Reclaimed Spirit" sculpture and park in front of McFall Elementary.

Williamson said he's very proud of the Middleville community and Thornapple Kellogg Schools. "It doesn't matter who it is -there is someone willing to help," he said. "This is a good community to raise a family with people who care and a school district that lives up to their saying - 'Where Kids Come First.'"





# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Pictured (left to right): Rob Blitchok (Superintendent – TK Schools), Beth Hannapel, Annie Halle (BCF/TAEF Liaison), Becky Zellmer (Board Treasurer), Janis Fitzgerald, Kristen Cove (Board President), Emily Welker, Krissy Hooson, Jim Nichols, Kay Griffith, Mike Bremer (Board Vice President). Not pictured Matt Palmer, Craig Stolsonburg and Paige Zellmer (YAC Representative).

## YEARS OF SERVICE

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation says goodbye to four influential and dedicated board members. We thank them for their years of service not only to the foundation but to the thornapple area community as a whole.



### JEFF WOLVERTON

Jeff served on the TAEF Board for 17 years. During his time with TAEF Jeff held the position of Treasurer. Jeff will continue to sit on the TAEF Scholarship committee and the Barry Community Foundation's Investment Committee. "After I retired I had more time to give back to the community and the TK school district where my wife taught and my kids graduated from. So that is what led, me to be on the TAEF board. It was a very fulfilling experience."



## SHELLEY ERB

Shelley was a TAEF Trustee for 9 years and was never afraid to jump in and help. Shelley was a member of the Scholarship Committee and Event and Marketing Committee. She also held an annual community yard sale each fall to generate additional granting dollars for the Foundation. "I was honored when I received a call from Diane Weatherhead, former TAEF Board President, and she asked me to write a bio for consideration to be on the TAEF board. I was more than willing because I believe in the impact TAEF has on the TK School District and the community. This was an opportunity for me to stay involved as I transitioned into retirement. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve on the board the past nine years. It was a great way to give back!"

## KYLE MCKEOWN

Kyle has been a member of the TAEF Board since 2009. During his term with TAEF, Kyle has served as the Board President, and was a member of the Governance, Nomination, and Scholarship committees. As Board President, Kyle revised the Rules of Governance as well as instituted term limits. "I wanted to give back to the community and school district that has supported my family for over 100 years."

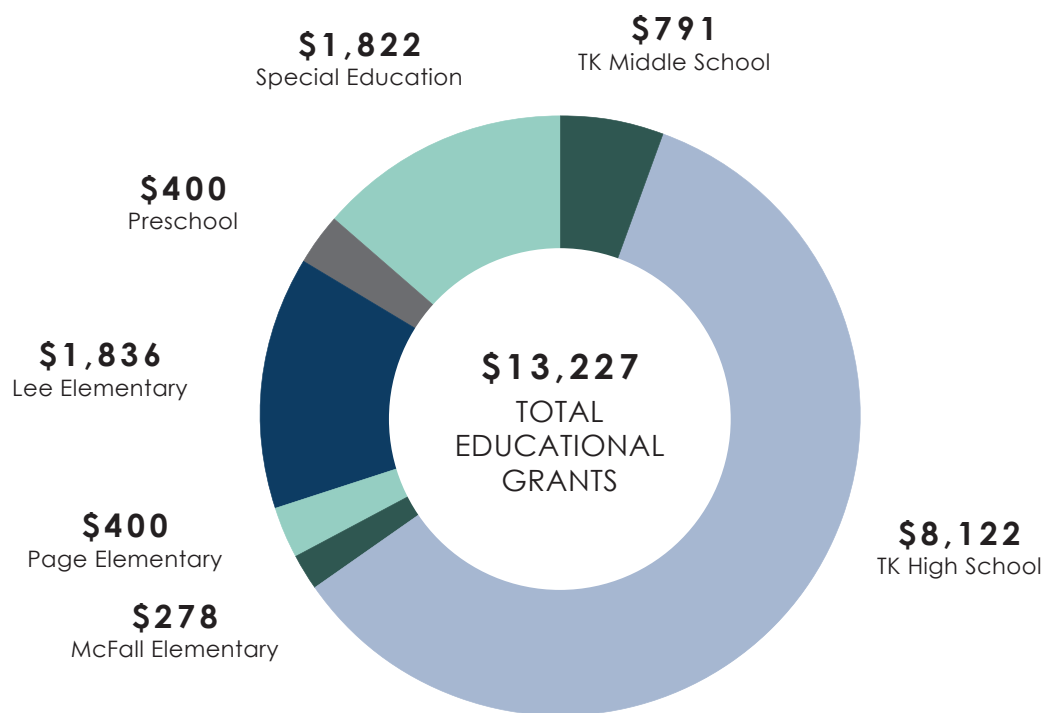


## BRADY ZELLMER

Brady served as TAEF's Youth Advisory Representative for three consecutive years. During his time with TAEF, Brady provided the Foundation with a youthful outlook, which allowed Board Members a perspective into today's youth. Brady graduated from Thornapple Kellogg Schools in 2019 and is currently attending Madison Wisconsin where he is studying to be a pediatrician. "I enjoyed my time on the TAEF Board. Most high school students don't get the experience to be a voting member of a Board. I learned a lot about the inter-workings of a nonprofit and how tough decisions are made."

# TAEF GRANTING 2019

## + THE BREAK DOWN



## + THE PHILOSOPHY

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation's (TAEF) granting philosophy is to support the needs of both the Thornapple Kellogg School District and the community of Middleville. TAEF is both excited about the opportunity to engage a wider range of community supporters and to assist a more diverse group of grant applicants.





# educational GRANTING

## TK MIDDLE SCHOOL: \$791

+ **\$241 AWARDED TO TK MIDDLE SCHOOL** for a life-size figure drawing model to teach figure drawing as well as learn how the human skeleton body looks and moves.

+ **\$250 GRANTED TO TK MIDDLE SCHOOL** to provide students with a farm to table healthy nutrition experience at a local area restaurant.

+ **\$300 FROM THE FITZGERALD ODYSSEY OF THE MIND AND ARTS FUND** to fund a professional choir clinician to provide Middle School and High School students the opportunity to learn more about musical performance and improve their vocal skills.

## TK HIGH SCHOOL: \$8,122

+ **\$2,500 GRANTED TO THE TK HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT** to establish a book club that is integrated in to the English curriculum by engaging students in small book club discussions.

+ **\$1,500 GIVEN TO THE TK HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL** to create a Spanish section at the libraries to serve both students and community by providing a robust Spanish library.

+ **\$900 GRANTED TO TK HIGH SCHOOL'S BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA (BPA)** for the State Convention. BPA is a national career-tech program designed to give students opportunity for personal growth, development and educational advancement in business-related fields.

+ **\$1,300 AWARDED TO THE TK HIGH SCHOOL'S MUSIC PROGRAM** to purchase new choir uniforms for concert choir members.

+ **\$1,500 GRANTED TO THE TK HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCIL** to bring a motivational speaker to speak at TKHS's day of service event to discuss how to make the world a better place through community service.

## MCFALL ELEMENTARY: \$278

+ **\$278 GRANTED TO MCFALL ELEMENTARY FOR MAGFORMERS AND MAGNATILES** for STEM programs, which allow students to use and develop their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills.

## PAGE ELEMENTARY: \$400

+ **\$400 AWARDED TO PAGE ELEMENTARY** to purchase the One Minute Reader Fluency App for Ipads to build fluency, comprehension and independent growth of students.

## LEE ELEMENTARY: \$1,836

+ **\$1,500 GRANTED TO LEE ELEMENTARY** to purchase Reading Street Sleuth for classrooms. Reading Street Sleuth is a collection of short selections written at a higher-than-grade-level readability and intended for small group instruction.

+ **\$336 AWARDED TO LEE ELEMENTARY** to purchase Hokki Stools, which are ergonomic convex stools that allow students to move while learning.

## PRESCHOOL: \$400

+ **\$400 AWARDED TO TK LEARNING CENTER** to assist with transportation for field trips to Cotants Orchard, Boulder Ridge Zoo and YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION: \$1,822

+ **\$122 GIVEN TO TK HIGH SCHOOL'S SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM** to take students to vocational training centers to give them hands-on career opportunities and experiences to apply post-secondary.

+ **\$1,200 GRANTED TO THE THORNAPPLE KELLOGG MODERATE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT CLASSROOMS** to provide community based instruction to students allowing them real-life experiences helping their community.

+ **\$500 GRANTED FROM THE JEFF LEHMAN MEMORIAL FUND** to help cover costs for the Adaptive Physical Education program which is designed to build self-efficiency in the in the area of physical fitness among students with special needs.

# 2019 SCHOLARSHIP recipients

Congratulations to the 2019 Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation scholarship recipients. We are committed to providing support for our Thornapple Kellogg High School graduates by helping them achieve their post-secondary aspirations. This year almost \$46,000 was paid in scholarships to area students.



Abbigail MacDonald

Millicent Grace Knox  
Teacher  
Southside Pediatrics



Carrie Finholm

McCullough Family  
TK



Carson Denman

Gun Lake Women's  
Club - TK



Charles Knorr

Thornapple Kellogg  
Alumni Association



Daniel Hannapel

Tad Thatcher



Ellena Keener

Thornapple  
Garden Club  
Francisca C. Vrona  
Barry County  
Humane Society  
Compassion and  
Love for Animals



Ethan Oly

Adele and Arnold  
Parker



Karlie Raphael

Gerald & Lois Page



Joseph Dinkel

Terri Yoder



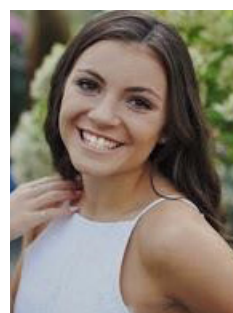
Kara Burbridge

Robert Evans



Katherine Dinkel

Don & Cathy  
Williamson Visual  
or Performing Arts  
Scholarship  
Village Players of  
Middleville



Kaylee Spencer

RKW Working  
Student  
Ray Page Scholar-  
Athletic



Kinsee Lettinga

Travis Wenger





Alexis Webster

Adam Dipp



Brady Zellmer

West Michigan  
Viking Group  
Dr. Wayne and  
Marie Finkbeiner  
Samuel McKeown



Breanna Lake

Alecia Lorraine  
Holst  
Jon and Kay  
Simpson



Brody Keiser

Lois Ann Nagel  
Seppanen  
Samuel McKeown



Brooke Beilfuss

McCullough  
Family DK (Delton  
Kellogg)



Evan Sidebotham

Samuel McKeown  
Thomas Hamilton  
Tennis



Grace Hauschild

Ethel Denton Groos  
Beth Helrigel  
Wester  
Lynn Helrigel  
Summers



Isaiah Guenther

Emil Tyden  
Founders  
Samuel McKeown



Jack Schneider

Lorraine Dahlgren



Kaleb Micklatcher

Rodney and Rena  
Schad



Olivia Swiderski

Julie Bender  
Women's Athletic  
Scholarship



Samantha Stayton

TK Class of 1957



Samuel Dickman

Gun Lake  
Women's Club - TK  
Katherine and  
Edward Wieringa



Taylor Myers

Travis Wenger 4-H



Valerie McNamara

Gerald and Ceta  
Williams Fund

# FUNDS

Adam Dipp Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Adele & Arnold Parker Family Fund  
Alecia Lorraine Holst Scholarship Fund  
Beacon Society, Friends of the Thorn. Kellogg  
School & Community Library  
Beth Helrigel Wester Memorial Scholarship  
Fund  
Board Discretionary Fund  
Calvin C. Plummer Memorial Fund  
Charles & Margery Williams Youth Activity Fund  
Clay Hills Farm Fund  
Donald & Catherine Williamson Visual and  
Performing Arts Fund  
Dykstra EMS Matching Fund  
Eugene & Edna Hendrickson Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
Finkbeiner Scholarship Fund  
Fitzgerald Odyssey of the Mind & Arts Fund  
Francisca C. Vrona Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Frank Tichvon Memorial Fund  
TAEF General Fund  
Gerald & Ceta Williams Fund  
Gerald and Lois Page Education Scholarship  
Fund  
Jeff Lehman Memorial Fund  
Jessica Coe Memorial Fund  
JK Simpson Scholarship Fund  
John & Maxine Robertson Scholarship Fund  
Julie Bender Women's Athletic Scholarship  
Fund  
Katherine & Edward Wieringa Friendship &  
Community Scholarship Fund  
Kickstart to Career - Saving Matters

Lois Ann Nagel-Seppanen Scholarship Fund  
Lorraine Dahlgren Scholarship Fund  
Lynn Helrigel Summers Memorial Fund  
McCullough Family Scholarship  
Middleville Women's Club Scholarship Fund  
Millicent Knox Teacher Scholarship Fund  
Mom's Scholarship in memory of Virginia Hoover  
Harrison Root  
Ray Page Scholar-Athlete Memorial Fund  
Richard Reyff, Eric Lee Reyff & Chris Banash  
Memorial Fund  
RKW Student Working Fund  
Robert Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Rodney & Rena Schad Memorial Scholarship for  
Industrial Arts  
Samuel McKeown Memorial Scholarships  
Tad Thatcher Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Terrie Yoder Fund  
Thomas R. Hamilton Memorial Scholarship  
Thornapple Kellogg Alumni Association Fund  
Thornapple Kellogg Public Library  
Thornapple Kellogg Tradesman Scholarship Fund  
TK Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund  
Travis Wenger 4-H  
Travis Wenger Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Village Players of Middleville Art Scholarship  
Fund  
William McGee Memorial Scholarship



# VOLUNTEERS

Marsha Bassett  
Bob Bender  
Rob Blitchok  
Tammy Borden  
Mike Bremer  
Lisa Brown  
Tammie Burbridge  
Christyl Burnett  
Andy Cove  
Kristen Cove  
David Cove  
Damon Cove  
Amanda Davis  
Joanne Dipp  
Erica Dudik  
Randy Eggers  
Shelley Erb  
Michelle Fabiano  
Kim Finkbeiner  
Lisa Finkbeiner  
Janis Fitzgerald  
Mary Francisco  
Michael Gaertner  
Diane Gaertner  
Cyndi Gerbasi

Catherine Getty  
Michael Gormley  
Richard Hamilton  
Beth Hannapel  
Cathy Hart  
Patricia Johns  
Morgan Johnson  
Karen Kennedy  
Misty Knox  
Debbie McKeown  
Kyle McKeown  
Cindy Middlebush  
Sue Morton  
Marisa Ostrowski  
Matt Palmer  
Gretchen Parsons  
Jessica Phillips  
Heather Pratt  
Jody Pratt  
Jeff Pratt  
Rob Ranes  
Kathy Ranes  
Jeff Schad  
Jon Simpson  
Kelly Sporer

Megan Staple  
Craig Stolsonburg  
Duane Thatcher  
Pat Thatcher  
Shirley Thompson  
Deb Tomko  
Sarah Turner  
Heidi VanAman  
Robin Walters  
Deb Weatherhead  
Becky Wenger  
Phil Wenger  
Steve Wiersum  
Don Williamson  
Karen Williamson  
Stacie Willshire  
Brian Willshire  
Celeste Wolverton  
Jeff Wolverton  
Shelly Wolverton  
Stephanie Woods  
David Yoder  
Brady Zellmer  
Becky Zellmer





Cultivating a strong community now and forever.