



Four County
community foundationSM
2006 Annual Report



For **good.** For **ever.**®

Connecting Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair Counties

On the Cover

Starkweather's Moonflowers
& Music Festival, Port Huron
Hospital Backpack Program, in honor
of Laurie Lee, and the Symphonia
Chorale.

**YOUTH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

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President, Shelby Couch
Vice-Pres., Beth Bodiya
Treasurer, Taylor Sinda
Secretary, Jamie Ligon
Historian, Charlotte Ezzo

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Mark Gonczar
Wes Jonik
Emily Kramek
Jon Lafata
Nick Nivison
Alex Reinhardt
Tyler Nichols
Stephanie Walla

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Vice-Chairperson

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Jim Sillers

STAFF

President/CEO

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Admin. Asst./Accountant

Christine Gabridge

Susan Gainer

Program Associate

Valerie Quinn

The Chairman of the Board

The Four County Community Foundation continues to give back to the four connecting counties, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair.

In 2006, we issued 421 grants totaling \$361,300 distributed for seniors, youth, environment enhancements, the arts, community projects and scholarships. Since the beginning of the foundation in 1987 it has given in excess of 4.6 million dollars to the local communities.

Our assets continue to grow and several times this year we have surpassed the 10 million dollar mark. We have been told that it takes a long time to reach this amount as a foundation, and the next 10 million will be attained in half the time.

The Michigan economy continues to struggle and the need for help is constantly increasing. It gives me great pleasure to see the many things that we the foundation can support while still growing our asset base.

I want to thank all of the people who have supported the Four County Community Foundation both this past year and all of the previous years. Without your support the Foundation cannot continue to grow and give back to our communities.

The Board of Directors is represented from many of the communities that we support. We maintain a very active, professional board along with a very capable staff.

We are sorry to see Christine Gabridge, who retired this year as Administrative Assistant/Accountant, leave the Foundation. Chris dedicated nine years to the Foundation providing excellent recordkeeping with gleaming audits and a listening ear for our constituents. We all thank her for her dedication and wish her a great retirement.

In November of 2007 we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary as we continue with our mission: For good. For ever.

Charles Schiedegger,
Board Chairperson



NEW 2006 FUND

Laurie Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund

As I reflect on my life, I am overwhelmed at what direction it took! For a shy, “nose in a book” young girl, to becoming a teacher and a principal—unbelievable. I always said, all I ever wanted to do was teach kindergarten! As it turned out, the plan or path I was supposed to take was a different one.

-letter excerpt, Laurie Lee

From timid beginnings, Ms. Lee became a devoted teacher and administrator in the Imlay City School District noted for her devotion and inspiration. Laurie was always drawn to education. A graduate of Almont High School in 1974, she pursued a degree in Child Development. Continuing her education, she obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Early Education. She earned an Education Specialist Degree in Administrative Leadership from Oakland University. Her vast array of knowledge elevated her from teaching preschool to teaching elementary education and finally serving as Dean of Students. She spent a total of 17 years as a devoted teacher and administrator with the Imlay City School District.

Born in Trenton, Michigan in 1956, Laurie left this world at age 49 due to illness. In 2006, the Laurie Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Laurie Lee’s family in her honor. Each year her legacy continues to inspire and support an Imlay City student to further their education in an elementary or secondary teaching career. They must be a student of intelligence, integrity and demonstrate a positive attitude when working with children. This student must be able to answer, “Why I want to be a teacher,” within the application process—because they are following in the footsteps of Laurie Lee.



Lauri Lee



Lauri Lee and family.



Lauri during her early teaching years.

Unrestricted

Four County Community

Administrative

Friends Operations
Operating

Capital Campaign & Non-Endowed Funds

Capac Adolescents Preventing Abuse & Crime
Capac Youth Sports Project
President Advised
Sillers Family Charitable

Designated Agency

Family Literacy Center of Lapeer County
Roland W. Graubner Endowment Fund for the Romeo Library
Imlay City Historical Commission
North Macomb Soccer Club Field Development
Romeo Historical Society/Charles E. Keller
Symphonia Chorale Endowment

Donor Advised

Almont Education & Community
Armada Educational Foundation
Justin C. "Jut" Bullock Memorial
Capac Educational Endowment
Darin Conrad Education
Joseph & Bertha Corrión Charitable
Imlay Area Christian Community
Ligon Brothers
Marshall Lock Memorial
James E. Neely
Rhonda Nugent Memorial
Ottevaere Safe Horsemanship Program
Karras Pelfrey Memorial
Richmond Athletic Club Endowment
Gail Rickard Foundation
Romeo Community Action
Dr. Bernard J. Stremler Memorial

≈ **Harold Tietz Memorial Fund for Cancer**

Waterloo Hunt Club Donor Advised
Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Foundation

Field of Interest

21st Century Education
Almont Area
Armada Area
Capac Area
Dryden Area
Imlay City
Romeo Area
FCCF Home
Healthy Seniors/Healthy Youth
Imlay City Educational Endowment

W. K. Kellogg Youth
Lapeer Regional Hospital Endowment
Lloyd Veitch
Waste Management Environmental
Loral Watson Memorial Endowment

Scholarship

Nancy B. Barr Adult Education
John R. & Iris M. Bartholomew
Andy Beam Memorial
Capac Athletic Booster
Capac Educational
Harry Bussell
Marion Fischer
Robert Wayne Creger Sr. Memorial
Cryderman-Hebblewhite Agriculture
Gualdoni Family Education
Hilda M. Hill Memorial
Imlay City Educational
Grettenberger
Alvin Norlin
Glenn L. Smith II
Lee Weyer Athletic
Richard P. Wheeler
Imlay City Schools Alumni Association
Ruth Isaacson Memorial
Lawrence & Rose Juip Memorial
Knights of Columbus Council #7018 Roman Catholic
Scholarship Fund

≈ **Laurie Lee Memorial**

Russell W. Ligon Memorial Engineering
William & Betty Morrison
Murdie Educational
North Macomb Soccer Club
Romeo Community Schools
American Legion
Dan Barnabo
David Brockman
Ralph Dietz
Steven Fritz Sr.
Ellis C. Haskell
Haskell Trust
Al Moran
Eldon Mueller Memorial
David L. Olson/Rotary
Romeo Boosters Club
Sisson
Starkweather/Garvin
George S. Souten Performing Arts
Vera Souten Medical Field
St. Clement Church & K of C #7018 College
Jean Currey Stanwood Memorial
Brian Verstrete Memorial
Floyd W. West Memorial

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Year Ended December 31, 2006

Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	
Contributions – Unrestricted	\$ 118,451
Interest income – Unrealized	268,219
Net realized and unrealized gains and losses	1,023,613
Special event revenue	<u>24,390</u>
Total revenue, gains, and other support	1,434,673
Expenses	
Program services – Grants and scholarships	361,309
Support services:	
Management and general	128,477
Fund-raising	<u>26,096</u>
Development	33,813
Total expenses	<u>549,695</u>
Increase in Net Assets	884,978
Net Assets – Beginning of year, as restated	<u>9,523,560</u>
Net Assets – End of year	<u>\$ 10,408,538</u>

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2006

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 195,479
Investments	10,063,219
Property and equipment	<u>174,351</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 10,433,049</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Grants payable	\$ 21,062
Other liabilities	<u>3,449</u>
Total liabilities	24,511
Net Assets – Unrestricted	<u>10,408,538</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 10,433,049</u>

PUBLIC NOTICE: Our annual audit and IRS 990 are on file for review at the Foundation office during normal business hours. Copies of either document are available for a nominal fee. Names of investment managers, fees charges, and names of Four County Community Foundation Trustees responsible for investment and oversight of assets are available upon request.

Supporting the Arts

A community is more than nuts and bolts. The arts breathe life into a community and creates its character and charm. The Foundation supports excellent programs within the greater arts community.

The Starkweather Art & Cultural Center presented the Third Annual Moonflowers & Music—Sense the Arts that featured many local artists' work, a silent auction and plein-air paintings in conjunction with Romeo's strolling taste feast and a garden walk. In November and December, they presented the 2006 Holiday Art Extravaganza that featured original holiday art while promoting local artists.

The Symphonia Chorale continued to enrich the community with concerts such as the April presentation of Season of Love and the Messiah for the holiday season.

In the communications arts, the Foundation supported Oxford Community Television's efforts to acquire updated broadcast equipment that is required under the new FCCF regulations. The Oxford Community Television produced a documentary about the Foundation which airs on its station throughout the year. The documentary helps to increase our visibility in the community and share our mission.



Starkweather's invitation to its Moonflowers & Music Sense the Arts 2006 event.

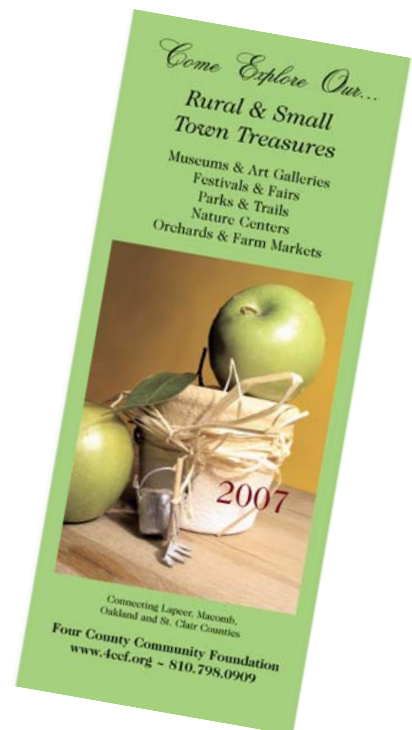


Symphonia Chorale continues to celebrate the seasons with the community.

Supporting Local Economies: A Proactive Initiative

There is an assumption that to find a treasure, you must travel long and treacherous distances. Yet treasures abound in our own community that many of us don't know about—or remember to enjoy. What's more, when frequenting local establishments and buying locally products, the local economy grows. This is the win-win concept behind the *Come Explore Our Rural & Small Town Treasures* initiative.

The Four County Community Foundation Board approved a proactive grant to produce a 2007 brochure to promote local non-profit attractions such as museums, art galleries, festivals, fairs, orchards, farm markets, parks, walking trails, and nature centers. Copies of the brochure were distributed to each site and generated an enthusiastic response from the public. A 2008 brochure will continue to promote local agriculture and tourism in the area and provide new dates for the festivals and fairs.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Technology

In today's world keeping up with technological advances is not an option. Imlay City Community Schools, with the support of a grant from FCCF, installed an Instant Alert System. School delays, emergency announcements and emergency communications with parents are now issued simultaneously and quickly from the Transportation Office. Messages are transmitted in English and Spanish.

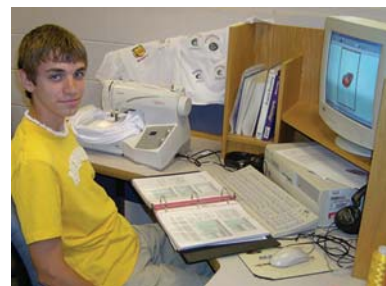
A growing number of schools throughout the United States see the need for instant and reliable communications. It has become a safety feature for operational communications as well as emergencies such as tornadoes, chemical spills and for lock down alerts to provide safety in the face of any type of violence.

Imlay City is utilizing technology to provide more learning opportunities at Borland Elementary School. The Video Feed project is technology designed to connect students from numerous locations, either school to school or across the country, bringing students together or by providing virtual field trips. The interactive system allows students not only to see remote locations, but to interact and ask questions—anywhere in the country in real time.

Romeo Middle School Technology Lab can now provide students with the opportunity to learn skills that can be directly applied in the technical trades. A grant for an embroidery machine and software that supports thousands of embroidery designs offers computer and software experience, hands-on technical training and entrepreneurship motivation.



Deby Smith, Imlay City Community School Instant Alert administrator, now alerts parents within minutes of scheduling changes or emergencies.



A student at Romeo Middle School's Technology Lab applies new computer knowledge to implementing trade skills.

Health & Safety

Social pressure abounds and school environments are no exception. A simple backpack can send a student to school prepared and optimistic.

The collaboration between CSB Bank, Port Huron Hospital Foundation, St. Clair County Foundation, and Four County Community Foundation continues to make the Capac Backpack Program a success. Capac and Yale students have their choice of a selection of backpack styles and colors—each filled with essential school supplies. “When they opened their packs to see what was inside, it truly was Christmas morning in August,” said Sara Tait, Community Health Center representative. Four hundred thirty-two backpacks were distributed the day of the event. Additional backpacks were distributed to Capac, Yale and Emmett schools.

This partnership between local businesses, the Capac Community School and foundations demonstrates the ability to effectively and positively make an impact on young students.

Berlin Township Fire Department has expanded its fire education program. Kindergarten through sixth grade students are now learning fire safety with “Firefighter Frank and Friends,” Muppet-type puppets that connect and hold the attention of young children. Presentations are held at different community events and schools. (A Healthy Senior/Healthy Youth grant.)

Dryden Girl Scouts, Troop 1149, organized a Senior Citizen Dinner that resulted in the best turnout for its tenure. Scouts said that they found a new respect for their elders when they had the opportunity to visit and talk with them. Seniors enjoyed a wonderful dinner and the opportunity to stay connected with the younger generation.

Krause Elementary School’s Tiger Tracks Walking Club offered incremental prizes for those students who logged the most walking miles. It is part the school’s initiative to promote better health through exercise as a lifestyle. The students walked a combined 8,732 miles. More impressive is the fact that, after seeing the success of motivating students to engage in physical exercise, other principals in the district became interested in the program. (A Healthy Senior/Healthy Youth grant.)

Children of all ages experienced the outdoors with Wolcott Mill Historic Center’s “Get Hooked on Fishing.” The Mill had fishing poles on hand and volunteers to help with fishing techniques. Parent and grandparent participation in the event surpassed all expectations proving good family fun never grows old.



Brothers share a moment after receiving school supplies and backpacks through the Capac Backpack Program.



Student enthusiastically participate in the Tiger Track Walking Fitness Program at Krause Elementary.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Janet Bauer
John & Connie Brzozowski
Marion & Robert Fischer
Paul & Elsie Hinzmann
Ella Mae & Gertrude Murdie
Catherine & Dorothy Ondersma
Dr. James & Ann Sillers
Bernard Stremler, M.D.

We gratefully recognize those who ensure a legacy to the Foundation by means of deferred gifts.

This special group of people is an encouragement to others to remember Four County Community Foundation in their charitable plans.

ADVISOR'S CIRCLE

Professional advisors who have helped work on a major gift with their clients are recognized as members of Four County Community Foundation's Advisor's Circle. Advisors with a number after their name have worked on multiple gifts.

Thank you to—
Shane Diehl
Sebastian V. Grassi
Cynthia Lane
Ed Lynch, 3
Henry Malburg, 2
Sean O'Bryan
Ronald W. Rickard, 2

2006 IN-KIND GIFTS

Almont Garden Club
American Tree, John & Connie Brozowski
Katherine Eschenburg
Rosemary Minjeur, PR St. Joseph Healthcare
Bob Morian
Elizabeth Ann Nellis
Dr. James Sillers

FOUR COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

Four County Community Foundation is committed to serving the current and emerging needs of our local community, continuing the tradition of philanthropy begun generations ago. The Foundation is dedicated to bringing together human and financial resources to support progressive ideas in education, health, community, youth and adult programs. The Foundation provides a secure, flexible vehicle for individuals, families, foundations and organizations to positively impact the quality of life in our community. The Foundation recognizes that in order to meet its commitments to the community it serves it must seek growth through its permanent endowment funds from a wide range of donors.

Four County Community Foundation

231 E. St. Clair, P. O. Box 539

Almont, MI 48003

Telephone: (810) 798-0909 * Fax: (810) 798-0908

Email: info@4ccf.org * Website: www.4ccf.org

