



THORNAPPLE AREA
ENRICHMENT
FOUNDATION



2022 VOICE

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a geographic affiliate of the
Barry Community Foundation

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank You for your continued support to the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) over the past 30 years, making the TK community a wonderful place to live, learn, and grow.

Mike Bremer was selected as our 2021 Hometown Hero. Due to the pandemic, TAEF was unable to host the hometown hero dinner in 2021. We were excited to be able to celebrate Mike in September of 2022. Mike chose Imagination Library of Barry County as the charity to benefit from the annual Hometown Hero celebration. For more information on Mike's charity or to donate, go to www.barrycountypreads.org.

Over the past year, TAEF distributed over \$53,000 in scholarships to TK graduates for their continued education. We were also honored to award almost \$10,000 in community and classroom grants. These funds were used for therapeutic horseback riding, robotics classes, art supplies, books, and many other items outside of the school's budget. We continue to see granting requests that far exceed our annual budget and would love to see it grow with your help. Visit our website at www.thornapplefoundation.org for more information.

Thank you once again, and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Craig Stolsonburg
President TAEF

Board Members



Back Row (L/R): Travis Alden, Craig Stolsonburg (President), Emily Welker (Vice President), Becky Zellmer (Treasurer), Beth Hannapel, Johnny DeMaagd, and Matt Palmer

Front Row (L/R): Robin Walters, Duane Weeks, Annie Halle (BCF/TAEF Liaison), Krissy Hoosen, Karen Kennedy and Debbie Tomko.

Not Pictured: Craig McCarthy (TK Schools Superintendent and Natalie Alden (YAC Representative)

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation would like to thank these dedicated volunteers who gave countless hours in 2022 to help us make a difference our community.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Natalie Alden | Tammy Borden | Jo Carr | Kristen Cove | Kim Finkbeiner |
| Travis Alden | Joan Bosserd Schroeder | Kelly Cole | Madie Cove | Lisa Finkbeiner |
| Courtney Appel | Lisa Brown | Ryan Cole | Johnny Demaagd | Mary Francisco |
| Linda Barnett | Tammy Burbridge | Andy Cove | Jaimee Desjardins | Michael Gaertner |
| Kim Bender | Marisa Calloway | Damon Cove | Michelle Fabiano | Diane Gaertner |
| Cindy Bigler | | | | |



Education is for improving lives of others
and for leaving you community and
world better than you found it.
-Marian Wright-Edelman

Hometown Hero Celebration

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) was excited to honor Mike Bremer as both the 2021 and 2022 Hometown Hero. TAEF was unable to celebrate in 2021 due to Covid, but was able to host the Hometown Hero dinner in September 2022.

The list of Bremer's community involvement is long and impressive not only to Middleville and Thornapple Township, but also to Barry County, TK Schools, his church, and many organizations the county. The list includes being Thornapple Township Supervisor and Barry County Commissioner. He has also held many offices in organizations including Rotary, YMCA of Barry County, Middleville DDA, Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation, Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation, Spectrum Health Pennock Foundation, Leadership Barry County, and Middleville Housing Commission. He's also been a member of many committees and volunteer efforts including being a classroom reader at TK Schools, Heritage Day Committee, 24-Hour Challenge, Middleville Village Players, and Imagination Library of Barry County.

Bremer is a 1968 graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School. He's watched his three children graduate from TK and this fall will have seven grandchildren attending TK Schools. "We have great schools here. The community has made the schools a priority and supports the schools. It's hard to believe, but you don't see that everywhere." It's a great honor, and I certainly never saw myself rowing the same boat as so many of the leaders of our community who have been honored with this award in the past. Those people are heroes, not me," Bremer said.



Mike Bremer and family members

Previous Hometown Hero Honorees are:

2008: Frank Tichvon

2009: Rex and Christine Schad

2010: Bob and Helen Wenger

2011: Marilyn Finkbeiner

2012: Joyce Domire & Terri Vanderkooi

2013: John Loftus

2014: Don Boysen

2015: Janis Fitzgerald

2016: Jim & Diane Weatherhead

2017: Walt Eavey

2018: Deb and Scott McKeown

2019: Don Williamson

Janis Fitzgerald's Legacy



On October 2, 2021 our community lost a friend, mentor, educator, volunteer, and all around amazing human being, Janis Fitzgerald. She was not only a former Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) board member, she was also the Hometown Hero in 2015.

Janis' wonderful and sharp sense of humor was balanced by her kindness, compassion, and wisdom. She not only touched, but changed lives.

After Janis' passing her friends and family wanted a place to remember Janis and celebrate the person she was. The Janis Fitzgerald Memorial Tree of Life Sculpture Special Project Fund was set up through TAEF to secure the funding to commission a local artist, Ruth Gee, to create a sculpture. Working with Ruth,

Janis' friends and family decided on the perfect tree sculpture with a single bird resting in its branches. When the completed work returned from the metal fabricator, a second bird had mysteriously appeared. Everyone knew immediately that Janis had a hand in this and gave her blessing, as the two birds represented her identical twin sons, Jim and Joe.

Special project funds allow non- endowed donations, and funding to flow directly to other organizations for special projects. This allows fundraisers to avoid burdensome administrative tasks for the accounting of non- endowed dollars, while affording donors with a non-profit tax deduction.

Although we will always be impacted by Janis' passing, we now have a peaceful place to honor her legacy near the Middleville amphitheater, where Janis' love of music can be enjoyed.



Janis' twin sons Jim and Joe at the sculpture dedication

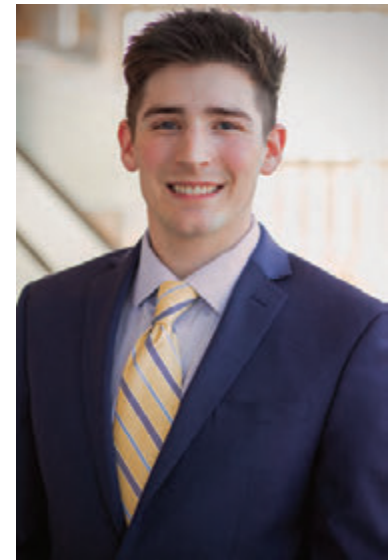


Janis' friends honored her legacy with wine and remembrance.

Fostering Youth Leadership

Evan Sidebotham

Throughout the last 3 years of college, I have received scholarships from the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation and its donors for my general college education and to undergo training to become a first responder in Middleville during the pandemic. On the surface level, it is easy to think that this simply makes the college bill smaller, but it is so much more powerful than that. Going through college and EMT training with scholarships from people directly supporting me from my community, tells me that those around me see what I want to do, what I have done, and they want to help me become the person I hope to be. It is reassuring to think that people want me to be the person that shows up in an emergency or to someday be a doctor within the community. It fuels my passion for learning. It's the reason I stay up that extra hour at night to read over a paper one more time before I turn it in, and study in the library for many hours on end. Outside of fueling my passion, the scholarships have also allowed me to pursue other interests and engage in things I would not have been able to otherwise. This includes spending a summer training to become a first responder instead of working. I could volunteer and focus on my education during the school year and do research this summer. Overall, receiving these scholarships has been such a blessing in my life, and I can 100% confidently say that I wouldn't have the same grades, experiences, and motivation that I currently do without them.



At GVSU, I play on the Club Tennis team, I'm the President of the Pre-Med Club, tutor first and second-generation immigrants in the GR area, work as an EMT in Middleville, and do research funded by NASA's Michigan Space Grant Consortium. I was recently accepted early admission to MSU's College of Human Medicine MD program, and I am so happy to say that I will be attending there next fall with Emergency Medicine in mind.

Natalie Alden

I had the honor of being the Youth Advisory Council representative on the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation Board this past year. I learned a lot during my time on the board and met some amazing people as well. I was able to listen in on the planning of some fantastic events that took place this year, as well as vote and share my thoughts on topics that benefited our community.

I'm a graduating senior at Thornapple Kellogg High School this year, and after I graduate, I plan to go to college to pursue a degree in business management. I know that I'll use the skills and everything else I've learned on TAEF this year in the years to come.

It really does seem like my dreams are all coming true, and I am so thankful for how the community has, and continues to support me throughout my life. It is amazing to have an organization such as this supporting our youth and investing in our community.



2021-2022 GRANTS AWARDED \$9,915.59

In 2021-22 the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation supported its community through the release of grants totaling **\$9,915.59**. These grants were funded through TAEF's General Fund and went toward supporting and improving all aspects of the Thornapple Kellogg Schools and Community.

Thornapple Kellogg Elementary Schools - \$3,969.91

\$682 purchased two large drying racks for art classes. The racks will ensure that students' work is safe from damage while drying.

\$275 granted approximately 220 students the opportunity to plan, bake and design their own cupcakes.

\$1,424.80 purchased 30 exercise balls for cardio drumming.

\$271.81 granted a horse-shoe shaped table designed to engage discussion among students in a classroom setting.

\$360 provided eight bulletin boards for many display opportunity for Lee Elementary students and staff alike.

\$442.46 funded sand drawers to allow students another opportunity to practice their numbers and letter through sensory-friendly drawing.

\$450 provided active seating for students who need to move around at their desk to focus while working.

\$63.84 funded a Fact Fluency app to assist students in their memorization and knowledge of facts through an app-based platform

Thornapple Kellogg Middle School - \$3,545,68

\$700 purchased new graphing calculators to enhance students' math experience.

\$200.68 provided active seating for students who need to move around at their desk to focus while working.

\$1,220 granted industrial IT lab equipment including a table-saw, cordless drill and 3D printer.

\$300 supported a new committee whose mission is to make staff and students feel valued and appreciated through small prizes and recognition

\$1,125 funded eight virtual reality glasses and charging cases to give students an immersive learning experience.

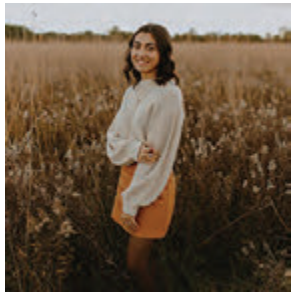
Thornapple Kellogg High School - \$800

\$800 purchased slab rollers for ceramics students.

Community Granting - \$1,600

\$1,600 funded a pitching mound for Thornapple Parks and Recreation to enhance the competitive experience for area youth interested in baseball and softball.

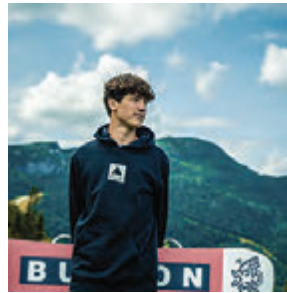
2022 Scholarship Recipients



Jacqueline Aguiar
Gun Lake Women's Club
Lorraine Dahlgren Memorial



Anna Benedict
Julie Bender Women's
Athletic



Daniel Beyer
RKW Working Student
Samuel McKeown Memorial



Mitchell Corner
Gerald and Ceta Williams



Talyn Cousineau
Lynn Helrigel Summers



Chase Dannenberg
Thornapple Garden Club



Keanna Dudik
Jody Helrigel Pratt
McCullough Family
Millicent Grace Knox
Robert Evans Memorial



Eli Flierman
Terri Yoder



Parker Forman
Clay Hills Farm



Benjamin Hanson
Brian Appel
Gun Lake Women's Club
Logan Michael Kimbrue
Memorial
TK Class of 1957



Alexander Harrington
Eugene & Edena
Hendrickson



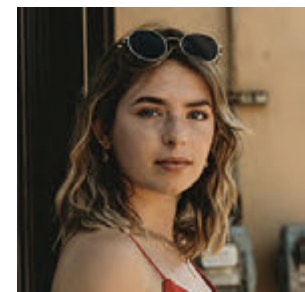
Ava Hess
Adele & Arnold Parker



Leah Luyk
Jon and Kay Simpson
Samuel McKeown Memorial



Rachel MacKellar
Alecia Lorraine Holst Memorial
Dr. Wayne & Marie Finkbeiner
Katherine & Edward Wieringa
Middleville Women's Club
Tad Thatcher



Jocelyn Martin
Eugene & Edena
Hendrickson



Ella McFadden
Dan Dykstra



Grace McNabney
Ray Page Scholar-Athletic
Memorial
Barry County Substance
Abuse Task Force



Andrew Nathan
Lois Ann Nagel Seppanen



Ainsley Oliver
Gun Lake Women's Club
Samuel McKeown Memorial



Katy Raphael
Gerald & Lois Page
Village Players of Middleville



Camden Reynolds
Don & Catherine Williamson



Jonah Schilthroat
Thornapple Kellogg
Alumni Association



Christopher Sharrar
Thornapple Kellogg
Alumni Association



Kendall Snyder
John and Maxine Robertson



Emma VanDenburg
Travis Wenger 4-H



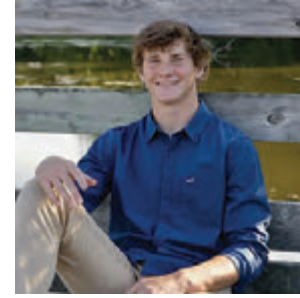
Nicholas Vreeland
Lydia Cole
Thomas Hamilton



Payton Wilkinson
Lydia Cole



Carson Woods
Gun Lake Women's Club
Rodney and Rena Schad
Memorial
Samuel McKeown Memorial



Grant Woods
Adam Dipp

Congratulations



