Giving back to community

Baldwin Community Schools Alumni Fund

Baldwin Community Schools will always hold a special place in the hearts of alumni.

It is where students grew up, their friendships bloomed, and they learned the basics of life. It is also where they felt the encouragement of a community that fully supported their education and looked for ways to help them. That tradition of community support still carries on today, creating a strong base for local students.

2020 financials

Impact by the numbers as of December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GIFTS</td>
<td>$69,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS</td>
<td>$54,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GRANTS</td>
<td>$183,385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Community grants: $83,776
- Donor advised, agency endowments, and designated grants: $99,609
The Community Foundation is also a proud supporter of Baldwin Community Schools and its students. We have provided grants to update materials and equipment at the school and have been proud to partner with the Baldwin Promise. Through this partnership, the Community Foundation has provided early college education opportunities for high school students.

For former Lake County students, reflecting on all the community gave them can bring back fond memories and a sense of gratitude. However, for alumni who move away to finish their educations or for their careers, it can be a challenge to find meaningful ways to give back to the community where they were raised.

As a way to help alumni give back, the Community Foundation started the Baldwin Community Schools Alumni Fund. This fund will benefit the community by providing much-needed services not only within the school district but for other nonprofits as well. We are excited to see the ways this fund will impact our community in the future.

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Baldwin Community Schools community response

Reading in the classrooms

When things quickly began to change in 2020, we recognized that the needs of our community were going to change and, in some cases, become more urgent. To quickly adapt to this, we worked with Fremont Area Community Foundation to create a Community Response Fund to support our local community in an easy and efficient manner.

While we had assumptions about what needs would arise, one we did not anticipate was presented by Baldwin Community Schools as they resumed in-person classes. After having to leave the classroom in such a rush in 2020, many teachers wanted to make sure that their students were equipped with materials they might need, including books. They emptied out many of their classroom libraries to help keep students from falling behind in reading. In doing so, when they prepared later to come back with limited access to school facilities, they realized classroom libraries would need to be built back up. The Community Foundation provided a grant through the Community Response Fund to put new books in the classroom for returning students.

The Community Response Fund is possible because of the generosity of individuals and families in this community. Many of our donors and donor advised fundholders made gifts, allowing us to make an impact for local students returning to their classrooms.
Event update

Together again soon

There is no question that we have missed meeting in-person and hosting events over the past year. Last year, we made the decision not to host any events because of our desire to follow guidelines surrounding the pandemic and to keep our community safe. As we walked into 2021, we were unsure what the year would hold for in person gatherings. While there are still uncertainties, we are doing our best to navigate holding events with appropriate knowledge and safety.

Our two signature events are the April Baked Potato Supper and the June Sampler Auction. The Baked Potato Supper is a community event that we have held for several decades. At this time, we have made the decision to postpone the event. There will be more discussion regarding the event at a later time and as we gain more guidance on gathering restrictions.

The Sampler Auction gathers restaurants from the community and includes a silent and live auction. We will cancel the event in 2021 out of respect for our community partners but look forward to hosting again in 2022.

Thank you for your understanding as we navigate the restrictions surrounding in-person events. We miss seeing your faces and look forward to safely gathering again in the future. To stay informed on the status of these events and our work in Lake County, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/lccfmichigan.

Trustee overview

Leadership in action

The Community Foundation would not exist without the continued support of community members who pour their time, talent, and resources into the organization. It takes a wide variety of individuals to ensure the work of the Community Foundation continues and thrives. We have staff members, committee members, and dedicated trustees who come together to help improve the quality of life in Lake County.

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of individuals who live, work, or are invested in Lake County and are actively involved in the improvement of our community. The board meets monthly to discuss the projects and activities of the Community Foundation and to approve scholarships and grants after they are reviewed by designated committees.

Last year, we welcomed Denise Smith and Herb Early to the Board of Trustees. Denise and Herb are both residents of Lake County. Denise is involved in her church and the Women’s Guild. Herb is a member of the Scottville Clown Band and is associated with the Baldwin Band. We are glad to add their experiences and voices to our diverse board.

Trustees:

Seth Wenger – Chair
Jay Barnhart – Vice Chair
Lori Braginton – Secretary
Judy White – Treasurer

Jane Allison
Herb Early
Ruth Fox
Vedra Gant

Rich Martin
Sally Murrey
Abbey Sisson
Denise Smith
Chair’s note

For the past two years, we have certainly been doing business in a new way. We have grown and adapted to meet our community where they are. While we have always tried to do this, the past year and a half has taught us new things about our community and its needs.

Our donors have stepped up over the last year and provided for the many needs we have seen in our community. In this newsletter, you will read about a community response grant that we provided thanks to the generosity of our donors who gave to the Community Response Fund for Lake County. Our donors gave close to $10,000 to be used to help with local needs directly related to COVID-19. We are continuing to work with our community on needs that have arisen because of the pandemic.

Last year we moved our grantmaking process online, allowing us to keep our normal schedule despite the uncertainties of 2020. This spring, we awarded more than $90,000 in grants to serve Lake County. We also made a change to our grant deadline this year. Our new consistent deadline will be March 15 each year. This will help us in our process and provide a concrete date for our grantees.

Throughout all this time, our community and donors have truly come together to provide for local needs. The trustees and I are so grateful for the generosity that allows us to provide long-term support to our community. Not only have we continued toward our goals of building sustainability in our community through endowment, we have also provided for more immediate needs. Thank you for your partnership and we look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully,

Seth Wenger
Board Chair