



## LES CHENEAUX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – FOR GOOD FOR EVER

Here in Les Cheneaux, we have inherited one of the most pristine places on the planet. Maintaining it for future generations and sharing that beauty with others continues to be our top priority. One of the purposes of the Foundation is to provide a vehicle for the community to help achieve that goal. Please use this newsletter as an update on some of the projects that have been supported by LCCF over the past year. Along with this newsletter you will find the 2020 Annual Ask Contribution Form and Fund Descriptions. Please consider supporting the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation and the other worthy organizations.

### JERSEY MUD CENTENNIAL



A very generous donor reminded the community that 2020 was the centennial year of the Jersey Mud coming to Les Cheneaux. Working with area ice cream shops, including the Hilltop, North Coast, and The Ice Cream Shoppe, a summer fundraiser featured Jersey Muds served in \$4 centennial cups. Proceeds benefitted the Youth Advisory Council fund.



*Cedar Cove residents Kitty Sims and Yvonne McDonald enjoy a Jersey Mud while reminiscing about going to the Bon Air as young girls.*



### CREATING A LASTING IMPRESSION

The Les Cheneaux area has been richly blessed by all those who have invested in its future. Legacy gifts don't have to be huge. They can start small and build over time. Preserving this extraordinary place we love is a priority for all.



*Oil painting of Williams Family Cottage on Coryell Island by Roger Heuck*

The Williams Family of Coryell Island Endowed Scholarship is one such fund that has awarded local high school graduates with a scholarship for many years. The family wished to share their love of Les Cheneaux and their commitment to area families with a scholarship. An endowed fund protects their investment and ensures that a scholarship can be awarded for years to come.

### 2020 GRANT AWARDS

The Les Cheneaux Community Foundation is proud to award \$24,621 to support the following local organizations during our 2020 grant awards:

**Great Lakes Recovery Centers**  
Transitional Housing Project

**Cedar Post Thrift Shop & Emergency Food Pantry**  
Energy Efficient Lighting

**Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce**  
Tourist and Business Area Maps

**Les Cheneaux Watershed Council**  
Public Kayak Launch Project

**Little Traverse Conservancy**  
Trail Maps & Guide Update

**Hessel School House**  
Energy Efficient Ceiling Fans

**Cedar Cove Assisted Living Facility**  
Community Fitness Opportunities

### YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS & THE CARES ACT

The 2020 CARES Act passed by Congress has made some significant changes affecting charitable giving this year. Those changes include a new charitable deduction available to individual taxpayers that do not itemize their deductions, which allows for a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per individual. The CARES Act also waives the requirement for many IRA holders to take a minimum distribution by the end of the year.

### CEDARVILLE HARBOR: A DREAM COME TRUE



After years of wishing and planning, the dream of having a public marina on Cedarville Bay, accessible to transient and local boaters, became a reality in 2020. Serving as the fiduciary agent for the local match dollars, the Foundation channeled donations from individuals and organizations to Clark Township. We also included our own contribution of \$20,000 to assure the project's completion. Thanks to Gary Reid, Mark Clymer, and the rest of the Clark Township Board, and especially the late Robert (Bobby) Dunn, and his Cedarville Harbor Committee members who pushed so hard for this project. The Les Cheneaux Community extends our THANKS for a job well done.



## A TRIBUTE TO KERRI MERTAUGH



Kerri Mertaugh (1963-2020) was one of the great ambassadors for the Les Cheneaux area. Her passing this past year has left a hole in our community that will be felt for some time. Kerri's wish was for the building of the non-motorized bike path between the Hessel and Cedarville.

In Kerri's mind this project was so much more than a bike path, a symbol of one community, connected in history, culture, and family.

To honor her request, the Foundation has established a fund to receive either donations or pledges toward Kerri's goal. If you would like to help her vision become a reality, please contact the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation.

## KICKSTART TO CAREER

Now in its third year, we currently have 40 students in K-2nd grade enrolled in Kickstart to Career, our Children's Savings Account program.

The Foundation deposits \$50 into an account for each child upon enrollment in kindergarten and will match up to \$25 of deposits made by family and friends each school year.

Through this program, children learn about saving for their future education and career. Upon graduation, the funds will be available for students continuing their education — whether trade school or college.



## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Foundation is pleased to award these 2020 high school graduates the following scholarships, totaling \$10,000:

**Billy Ryan Memorial Scholarship**

*Lily Freel*

**Tassier Nye Family Scholarship**

*Loreena Huffman and Sienna Reichlin*

**Archie & Ruth Visnaw Scholarship**

*Lily Freel*

**Williams Family of Coryell Island Scholarship**

*Loreena Huffman*

**Josh Goodell Memorial Scholarship**

*Thomas Bohn*

**Tricia (St. Onge) Smith Memorial Scholarship**

*Jarrett St. Onge*

**Earl Law-Perry White VFW Post 7958 Scholarship**

*Makenzi Masse and Isaac Brown*

The Foundation is pleased to award these Great Lakes Boat Building School students the following scholarships:

**Frank "Duke" Harding Memorial Scholarship**

*Brendan Adiar and Chris Keie*

**Tommy Mertaugh Memorial Scholarship**

*Kevin Flood*

## COVID-19 RELIEF: PROTECTING LES CHENEAUX

Thanks to the outpouring of generosity from many, the Foundation established a COVID Relief Fund that has been made available to assist individuals and businesses during this crisis. This has been used to fund:

- "Safe Start Kits" containing facemasks, sanitizing wash, signs, and other materials to 50 local businesses.
- "Les Cheneaux Loot" project of gift certificate and coupons through Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce which resulted in over \$10,000 of spending activity invested in our local economy.
- Supplies for the "Mackinac County Mask Making Brigade" to provide over 6,000 face masks to the community.
- Grocery store certificates to supplement school family deliveries through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Musical instruments shields for school band members.



Les Cheneaux Community Foundation also made a grant to Cedar Post Food Pantry, as well as worked with volunteers from the Feeding America Food Truck brought to the Les Cheneaux Area this spring.



Even the youngest shoppers were excited to get their hands on Les Cheneaux Loot this spring and summer.

## SURVEY: THE NEXT DECADE IN LES CHENEAUX

What are the next priorities for the area? What would you like to see happen in our community in the next decade?

An attempt has been made to survey all area organizations, asking what goals they may have for the foreseeable future.

While not an easy project to accomplish, it is necessary that the community plan and prepare for the future.

Please find the survey link on the Foundation's website, [lescheneauxcommunityfoundation.org](https://lescheneauxcommunityfoundation.org) – we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas!

## 2020-2021 LCCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FOUNDATION FINANCIAL FACTS FOR 2020

Number of Funds Held: 55

\$10,000 in Scholarships Awarded

\$24,621 in Grants Awarded

\$16,304 in COVID Relief Disbursed

\$94,255 Distributed to Local Organizations through our Annual Giving Campaign