Scholarship Stories

Adam Murphy Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Memorial Medical Center West Michigan Medical Staff for Tim and Anne Murphy, who created the Adam Murphy Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.

Adam was a gifted and talented young man. He had a sharp wit and a sense of humor. Adam was a beloved student at Ludington Area Catholic School, where he attended through the eighth grade, and was a freshman at Ludington High School at the time of his passing. He was a board designer and a member of the Varsity Quiz Bowl Team at Ludington High School. Adam actively participated in Spelling Bees and Math Counts and was a state finalist in the You Be the Chemist competition. Family and Faith were also of the utmost importance in his life.

Alberta Muzzin Chamber Alliance of Mason County Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce, which established the Alberta Muzzin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.

Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Bethany Lutheran Church Congregational Council, which established the Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.

In the 1870s, Danish immigrants to the Ludington area met to pursue a dream to worship God, provide Christian education, and support one another through fellowship. In 1878 they established the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, which later became Bethany Lutheran Church. Danish language worship services were held into the 1940s. A mural depicting Bethany's longest-serving pastor, The Reverend John Christensen, can be viewed from the parking lot west of the James Street Plaza. The congregation continued to worship and serve the community from its 1101 South Madison location until 2018 when, due to declining membership and financial support, it sold the church building to the Salvation Army and accepted the invitation of Grace Episcopal Church to share its building. Bethany held worship services there until March of 2019. As a memorial to all those who were a part of Bethany's ministry and in support of young people desiring post-high school education, Bethany's last act of service was establishing an endowed scholarship fund through the Community Foundation for Mason County.

Craig L. Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Jack L. and Shirley Rasmussen, who established the Craig L. Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County in memory of their son, Craig.
The first preference for scholarship selection is graduating seniors of Ludington High School, majoring in the arts. Second preference is to support students going into a trade program.

Danny McCarty Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Family of Danny McCarty, who established the Danny McCarty Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Deb Del Zoppo and her family established a scholarship in memory of her nephew, Danny McCarty, after he passed away at the age of 26 in a motorcycle accident in Colorado. Danny was involved in the construction trades, so the focus of the two-year scholarship ($500 each year) is to support students who are going into that field of study.

Dr. Charles A. Paukstis Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington Area School District, which established the Dr. Charles A. Paukstis Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
It is presented to graduating seniors of Ludington High School who will attend West Shore Community College. Awards may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and other expenses incurred for educational purposes.

Drs. Ruth & John Carney & Irene Carney Kendrick Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Dr. John Carney, who established the Drs. Ruth & John Carney & Irene Carney Kendrick Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The Carney's love of Ludington ran deep, and they served the Ludington community through their family medical practice for over 42 years. Dr. Carney valued education and wanted to help others achieve their dreams. John's encouraging spirit lives on through this scholarship, established in memory of his first wife and their late daughter, to create opportunities for adult students, students pursuing postgraduate degrees, or those facing barriers to getting a college degree.

Elmer & Rose Peterson Memorial Scholarship

The Elmer & Rose Peterson Memorial Scholarship was established by David Peterson in memory of his parents and honors his father, Elmer, who loved to invent things.
To perpetuate his father's legacy of innovation, David, a Mason County Central (MCC) alumnus, created this scholarship to support MCC students who are inventive. Elmer's passion for inventing will continue forever in the form of scholarships for students pursuing that field of study.

Emily & Frank Smiddy Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Emily & Frank Smiddy who established the Emily & Frank Smiddy Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Frank Smiddy, former owner of ProAct Environmental Services located in Ludington, has always had a passion for STEM-related learning and wants to give back to the community where he owns his business. He and his wife, Emily, wanted to leave a legacy of students going into this field the best chance possible to get their college education with as little debt as possible, so they established the Emily & Frank Smiddy Scholarship Fund. It is their hope that students receiving this scholarship will be motivated, when they are financially able, to give back to the community to help others see success.

Epworth Fund for Ludington Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the residents of the Epworth Community, who established the Epworth Fund for Ludington Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The Epworth Fund committee truly values education and the opportunity it provides. The Epworth Fund for Ludington provides scholarships to Mason County High School graduates and supports other projects within Mason County, including the City of Ludington.

Everett J. Liebetreu Education Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Everett J. Liebetreu, who established the Everett J. Liebetreu Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.

George Dila Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Wayne and Jeanie Mortenson, who established the George Dila Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County to honor the memory of their dear friend, George Dila.
This scholarship is for graduating senior(s) of Ludington High School pursuing a degree or certification at any two or four-year accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school, with preference given to students who have excelled in Spanish.

Hamlin Lake Preservation Society Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society, which established the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The Hamlin Lake Preservation Society is an educational organization representing waterfront owners and interested friends of Hamlin Lake through monitoring water quality, weed distribution, producing a newsletter, and sponsoring activities on the lake such as fireworks and sailboat races. November 10, 2017, they established the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society Endowment Fund to provide a permanent, growing source of income to sustain their good work.

Jack & Jean Ereon Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the family of Doug Ereon, who established the Jack & Jean Ereon Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Doug Ereon credits scholarships with making his college education possible and leading to a successful career in oil and gas. Inspired by his own experiences and the support of his parents, Jack and Jean Ereon, Doug established this scholarship fund. Jack and Jean were devoted community members; Jack played a key role in developing Ludington's marina, and Jean always encouraged her children to pursue higher education despite financial constraints. This Fund will support scholarships for graduates of any Mason County High School pursuing a degree or certification at any accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school. Preference will be given to students with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 who demonstrate financial need. The Jack and Jean Ereon Scholarship Fund provides unlimited renewals until education is complete, with the hope that deserving local students can pursue higher education without the burden of mounting debt.

Joe Lancour Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the family of Joe Lancour, who established the Joe Lancour Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Joe Lancour served our country in Afghanistan where he lost his life. Joe was active in sports and graduated in 2004 from Ludington High School. He was artistic in many ways and loved to cook. His mother Starla Owens championed this scholarship fund to honor his memory.

Knizacky Family Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Fabian Knizacky, who established the Knizacky Family Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to graduating seniors from any Mason County School, Manistee Catholic School, or Manistee High School who have a Freesoil Community connection. The student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. He or she must demonstrate leadership ability, community involvement, and extracurricular high school activities. The recipient may pursue any degree at any Michigan two or four-year accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school with preference to Aquinas College.

Lee Shipman Engineering Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Lee Shipman who established the Lee Shipman Engineering Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Lee Shipman has always had a love for all things electrical as far back as grade school when he added an additional phone in his family home so calls could be answered from more than one location! This eventually led him to get his degree in electrical engineering and a career at Dow Chemical in Ludington. He continued following his passion after retiring from Dow by working with a local Ludington business helping with the selection and modifications of equipment. Through this work, he recognized the real challenges that downtown merchants face. Lee is thankful for the people who have made a difference in his life, from his Latin teacher to coworkers to close friends and, because of this, he wants to give back to others. He established this Scholarship Fund for students pursuing electrical engineering.

Lee Shipman WSCC Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Lee Shipman who established the Lee Shipman WSCC Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Lee Shipman has always had a love for all things electrical as far back as grade school when he added an additional phone in his family home so calls could be answered from more than one location! This eventually led him to get his degree in electrical engineering and a career at Dow Chemical in Ludington. He continued following his passion after retiring from Dow by working with a local Ludington business helping with the selection and modifications of equipment. Through this work, he recognized the real challenges that downtown merchants face. Lee is thankful for the people who have made a difference in his life, from his Latin teacher to coworkers to close friends and, because of this, he wants to give back to others. He established a Scholarship Fund for students pursuing electrical engineering at WSCC.

Ludington Education Association Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington Area School District, which established the Ludington Education Association Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This fund provides scholarships to graduating seniors of Ludington High School.

Ludington High School Class of '59 Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington High School Class of '59.
This scholarship is for Ludington High School graduating seniors with a proven good work ethic.

Ludington Rotary Scholarship Fund

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Rotary Club of Ludington and the Ludington Rotary Foundation, who established the Ludington Rotary Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The fund was established to provide scholarships to Ludington High School students.

Margaret M. Lederle Ludington Area School District Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Mr. Arthur Lederle and the Ludington Area School District, who established the Margaret M. Lederle Ludington Area School District Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior of Ludington High School. Recipients are eligible to receive unlimited renewals, based on renewal standards, as long as the student pursues his or her chosen course of study. It is Mr. Lederle's desire that recipients of this scholarship consider giving back to the Fund if and when they find themselves in a position to do so.

Marlene Schoenberger Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Tamar Schoenberg, who established the Marlene Schoenberger Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County in memory of her mother, Marlene.
This scholarship is presented to Mason County students pursuing Fine Arts and Performing Arts.

Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors members, who established the Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors created this Scholarship Fund to benefit graduating seniors from any Mason, Oceana, or Manistee County High. This fund supports a student from each county every year.

Merry E. Petersen Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Frank Petersen, who established the Merry E. Petersen Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
The Merry E. Petersen Memorial Scholarship was founded on the belief that persons wishing to serve others in the benevolent field of nursing should be given the chance to achieve it. Merry graduated with honors from St. Francis School of Nursing in Illinois. During her lifetime, she was devoted to the nurturing care of others, and her family wanted to encourage others to pursue this important profession.

Michael and Rebecca Magee Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by Michael and Rebecca Magee, who established the Michael and Rebecca Magee Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior of Ludington High School pursuing a degree or certification within the state of Michigan in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

Miller Family Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Michael K. Miller, who established the Miller Family Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to instrumentalists graduating from Ludington High School.

Noble Arent Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington Area School District, which established the Noble Arent Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This fund shall provide scholarships to a graduating Ludington High School senior member of the National Honor Society. This student must pursue a degree in the Field of Education at any four-year accredited college or university.

Oriole Foundation / Cronenwett Family Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Oriole Foundation.
At the heart of The Cronenwett Family Scholarship is a fierce love of family, dedication to the Ludington educational community, and U of M football. Jack and Marie Cronenwett honeymooned in Ann Arbor cheering on their favorite team and raised their family in Ludington. Their children, Jack and Sue, both graduated from LHS and became respected medical professionals. Jack became a vascular surgeon practicing in New Hampashire and lecturing all over the world and Sue worked locally as an ER Nurse, serving at our local hospital for many years. For Sue, her dedication expanded beyond nursing to include serving on the LASD School Board as President and as a long standing board member for over 30 years. The Cronenwett Family Scholarship honors the importance of STEM study, the power of an effective educational system, and celebrates the pathway of Oriole graduates to University of Michigan Wolverines.

Oriole Foundation / Michael Oakes Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Oriole Foundation.
The Michael Oakes Memorial Scholarship award intends to honor late superintendent, Mike Oakes. Mike Oakes's spirit of generosity, community service, and passion for education is commemorated by this Oriole Foundation award. With an emphasis on creating a positive community impact, this scholarship recognizes the value of individual and organizational service within the community.

Oriole Foundation / Paula & Art Janousek Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Paula and Art Janousec.
The Paula and Art Janousec Memorial Scholarship was established with funds donated by the Janousecs and the scholarship was named in their honor by former superintendent Cal DeKuiper who knew the Janousecs as his neighbors. Living next to the superintendent, the Janousecs were inspired and impressed by Ludington's staff and administration's dedication to education and students and cooperative spirit. Their wish was to create a legacy of support as friends of Ludington's educational community.

Richard and Helen Daron Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington Area School District, which established the Richard and Helen Daron Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to graduating seniors of Ludington High School. Award recipients must pursue a degree or certification at any two- or four-year accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school. Award recipients are eligible to receive up to three renewals.

Rick Chapman Legacy League Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Rick Chapman Legacy League, created in memory of Rick, a beloved local entrepreneur who owned and operated Chuck Wagon Pizza in Ludington, Michigan, for many years.
Inspired by Rick's own path of starting his business at a young age, the scholarship supports students who are pursuing business education and entrepreneurship with the hope that recipients will eventually live and work in Mason County. The scholarship fund is administered by the Rick Chapman Legacy League Board, composed of Rick's high school friends who would visit Rick at Chuck Wagon when in town, longtime customers and neighbors from the community, and an overall eclectic mix of people from different walks of life that Rick welcomed. The board and several other Rick Chapman friends and fans host an annual golf outing near Rick's birthday in August to raise money for scholarships. Entry fees, sponsorships, and a silent auction contribute to the scholarship fund. The Rick Chapman Legacy League Scholarship honors Rick's memory and commitment to fostering entrepreneurship. By investing in local students, the Legacy League hopes to inspire students to follow in Rick's footsteps, contributing to the vibrancy of the Mason County community.

Rick & Mary Ann Randall Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Rick and Mary Ann Randall, who established the Rick and Mary Ann Randall Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
As quoted by Rick and Mary Ann Randall..."We value education and the opportunities it provides. We believe that all students who wish to pursue higher education should be able to do so, regardless of their academic standing or financial resources. Therefore, we offer scholarships to deserving students who demonstrate a strong desire to continue their education beyond high school."

Robert J. and Norma E. Bazzett Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Robert J. and Norma E. Bazzett, who established the Robert J. and Norma E. Bazzett Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Robert, a 1959 graduate of Ludington High School, said he always had the idea in the back of his mind to establish a scholarship fund for the "average" student. "I always felt there was a need for that," Robert said, "because there are a lot of kids like me that were just average C students in high school. We were cut out of the scholarship picture because our grades weren't good enough, but that didn't mean we were not worthy of a scholarship."

Sharon Bradley Johnson & Carl Johnson Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Sharon Bradley Johnson and Carl Johnson, who established the Sharon Bradley Johnson and Carl Johnson Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
There is a high demand for Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Sharon Bradley Johnson and Carl Johnson, retired CMU professors who live in our community, are passionate about this work. They established a scholarship for students entering the Board Certified Behavior Analyst field of study and are helping educate youth in our area about this career path.

Thomas Thompson Family Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of Thomas Thompson, who established the Thomas Thompson Family Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
Thomas Thompson, a Ludington Area Schools alumnus, created a scholarship fund in his family's name because many of his family members have received scholarships over the years. Because of his first-hand knowledge of the difference financial support for college meant, he wanted to share the good feeling of making a difference for future generations. "It is one of the things I wanted to do in my life," said Thomas.

Virginia Scott Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the Ludington Area School District, which established the Virginia Scott Memorial Scholarship of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior of Ludington High School with a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a 4-point scale. The recipient must pursue a degree or certification at any two or four-year accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school.

West Shore Community College Foundation Scholarship

This scholarship has been made possible by the generosity of the West Shore Community College Foundation, which established the West Shore Community College Foundation Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County.
This scholarship is for Mason County residents attending West Shore Community College.