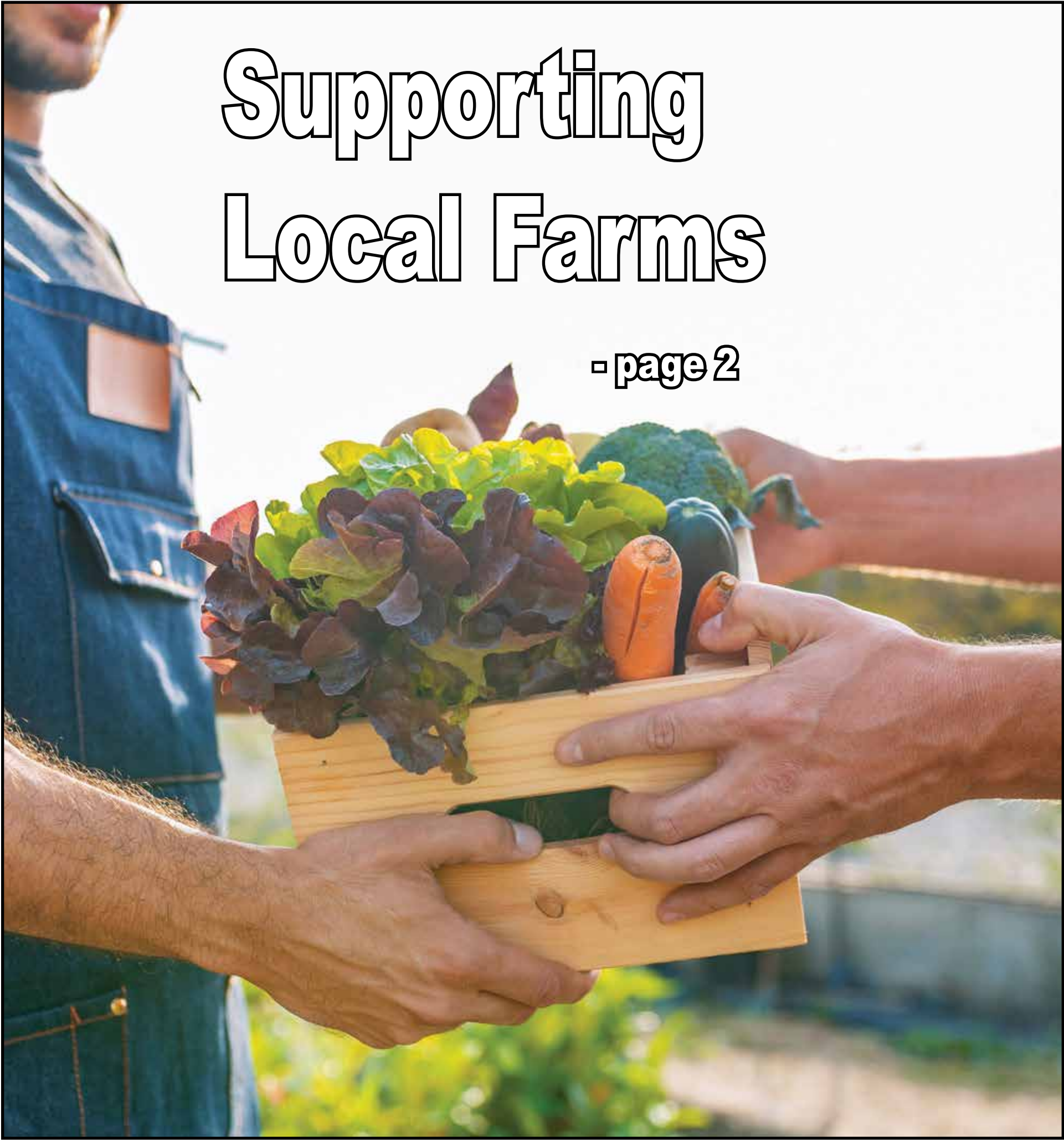


J.A.C.K.S.O.N

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE



Supporting Local Farms

- page 2



CHS

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Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. Our mission is to inspire community unification and promote the voices of organizations and individuals in Jackson County through a collaborative monthly publication.

Learn more at
www.jacksfamilyguide.org

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If you or your business would like to submit a FREE article or learn about advertising, send an email to jacksfamilyguide@gmail.com.

It is the responsibility of the submitting business or organization to obtain the proper photo release. The Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source is a collaborative guide. Stories and articles published herein are not written by us.

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EST. 2015

Learn to Love Your Hometown

Farms: Our History, Our Present, & Our Future

By Val Herr

Jackson has had an abundance of farms since before it was Jackson County.



With rich soil, moderate weather conditions, and vast acres of land, it was the ideal location for people to set up their family farms. Long before the invention of supermarkets, people grew their own food or traded with local farms.

While Jackson County has changed, this idea of growing your own food or buying it from local farms is still prevalent today. Not only do we, as consumers, receive better quality and fresher food, but we also support the backbone of our local town and our country. The technology of farming has advanced, but the work is still hard, never-ending, and dependent on the weather. Farming today also relies on us, the consumers, choosing to buy locally. Yes, I can go to my local supermarket and buy eggs, bread, meat, and fresh produce - potentially at a lower price point - but do I know where the food came from? Do I know how fresh it is? And most importantly, am I sure I'm supporting local farms when I buy at the supermarket?

Several of our local supermarkets do buy locally and that's great. I'd love to see them post which farms they bought their produce from so I can be assured it's locally grown. However, we can also utilize our town's abundance of farms and farm markets. It just requires us to drive a little bit and make an effort to support them. I, for one, think it's vital that we do. What would happen if more of our farms closed? Some of these farms have been in the same family for decades if not longer. We must all do our part to buy local and support our farmers. I've compiled a list of farms/farm stands for your convenience. I'm sure I've missed one or two, and for that, I'm sorry. If you are a local farm and I've missed you, please reach out so I can share your information.

1. Adams Farm, 10701 Adams Rd, Clarklake. This seventh-generation farm specializes in flowers and produce. To learn more, visit their website <https://www.adamsfarmllc.com/>

2. Curtis Farm, 10990 Austin Road, Brooklyn. Curtis Farm has operated for over

100 years. They specialize in vegetables and flowers and are especially known for their pumpkins. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063817740170>

3. Seffernick Farms in Hanover. You can purchase their goods at various farmers' markets, including the Grand River Farmers Market. They offer a medley of produce, jams, and baked goods. I highly recommend trying their sausages.

4. The Hen Hutt, 4934 Jefferson Rd, Clarklake. This self-serve farm stand specializes in sourdough baked goods and eggs. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/the.hen.hut.2023>

5. Pregitzer Farm Market, 6870 Territorial Rd, Munith, MI 49259. They specialize in produce and are known for their pumpkins in the fall. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mktfarmer>

6. A Couple Green Acres, 7991 Greenwood Rd, Jackson, MI 49201. They specialize in eggs, honey, and more. You can usually find eggs in their wagon on the corner of Greenwood and Portage. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083020578508>

7. Drumhiller Farms, 8755 Clough Rd, Parma. This farm features beef, pork, chicken, and lamb. To learn more about them and ordering meat, please visit their website <https://www.drumhillerfarms.com/about-us>

8. Lane View Farm, 13871 Lane Road, Cement City. Visit their farmstand for flowers, meat, and more. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/laneviewfarmbeef>

9. Gee Farms, 14928 Bunkerhill Road, Stockbridge. They are a retail/wholesale farm specializing in trees and shrubs. They also offer a wide variety of produce and doughnuts. To learn more, follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GeeFarms>

By purchasing food directly from the farms, we are not only supporting our local farms and farmers, but we are getting higher quality and fresher food. Though it can sometimes cost a little more, our health and our community are worth it!

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City of Jackson Receives Grant to Update Playground Area at MLK Center

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson
Public Information Officer



The park outside Jackson’s Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center is getting a big upgrade thanks to a special grant. The City of Jackson was recently awarded \$663,600 from the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF)/ Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Spark Grant Program partnership. The funding will be used to add more playground equipment outside the recreation center and construct a new pavilion. Located on Jackson’s south side, the MLK Recreation Center is a popular gathering place for the community. The park outside the center, the Howard Woods Recreation Complex, features a basketball court, ball fields, community garden, playground, and pavilion. Grant funds will be used to expand the current playground and fully replace the existing pavilion. The new playground equipment will be accessible to people with disabilities and contain adult exercise equipment.

“We are excited to receive this funding and use it to realize our community’s vision to enhance our community recreational experience,” said Parks and Recreation Director Kelli Hoover. “I am grateful for everyone’s ideas, input and effort that got us to this point, and I am confident that these developments will pay huge dividends for our community for generations to come.”



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson

The City of Jackson is one of 39 Michigan communities to receive a total of \$24.2 million in grants from CMF/DNR Spark Grant Program. Using American Rescue Plan Act funds to power the program, organizers say the initiative was established to provide expanded access

to recreation facilities for historically under-resourced communities. Resident engagement was a big part of the grant process, with the City of Jackson and Jackson Community Foundation holding a neighborhood meeting on the proposed project last fall to understand resident needs. “We are grateful for the efforts of the City of Jackson and the leadership of the Jackson Community Foundation in centering resident voices in this project that will create healthy recreational opportunities for all to enjoy for years to come,” said Kyle Caldwell, CMF President and CEO. The redesigned playground area will also include new walking paths to provide improved access to the City’s main pedestrian trail, the MLK Equality Trail. The City of Jackson expects to start construction on the park improvements in fall 2024 or spring 2025. “It’s an honor for the DNR to help dozens of Michigan communities achieve their vision of healthier, more active lifestyles for residents and visitors, especially through a new grantmaking model that ensures a more direct pathway to places where critical dollars are most needed,” said DNR Director Scott Bowen.

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*Offer available on new Youth Savings Accounts (Age 0-17) opened and funded between August 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024. A \$5.00 match will be deposited to the account within sixty (60) days of account opening. Promotion subject to change at any time. Account must be in good standing at the time of the match. Membership eligibility guidelines apply. See branch or TRUECCU.com for full details.

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Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Moosoo and Hilda

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Moosoo

Meet Moosoo, a four-year-old Catahoula Leopard dog mix. This medium-sized pup, weighing 35 lbs, is ultra-friendly and loves going for walks or playing outside. During his stay, Moosoo enjoyed spending time with other dogs and would likely find it easy to learn new commands. He already knows some basic commands and is housetrained. Moosoo is quite unique, with neat markings and a partially blue eye. Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online here. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; however, any necessary medical



procedures may cause a slight delay in the adoption process. A mandatory meet & greet with your dog is essential. A cat room walk-through is available to test reactions. Dogs will be placed with approved applicants, and the adoption

fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Hilda

Hilda is a six-year-old brown tiger, weighing 8 lbs. She was surrendered by her owner, who could no longer care for her. Hilda is quiet, calm, and friendly and she is looking for a person

to love. Stop by and meet this beautiful girl today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat, \$80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. While visiting the shelter is always recommended, you can also submit an online cat application here, fax it to 517-780-4750, or email it to animalshelter@mijackson.org. For more information, visit our website at mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

Meet Lola, a sweet and loyal 6-year-old female dog with a short coat showcasing a striking mix of white and brindle colors. Lola is a gentle soul who delights in simple pleasures like napping in her plush dog bed and snuggling with her humans. Her affectionate nature makes her a wonderful companion for anyone seeking a devoted friend. Though she enjoys visiting and making other four-



legged friends, Lola would thrive best as the only pet in her forever home. Lola is fully prepared for adoption—she's spayed, microchipped, vaccinated,

and tested negative for heartworm, ensuring she's healthy and ready to join your family. Cascades

Humane Society invites you to meet Lola; we're open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 PM, with the last adoption processed at 5:30 PM. Her adoption fee is normally \$410, but for the month of August, Lammer's Heating and Air Conditioning are generously sponsoring her adoption fees. Our adoptions are first-come, first-serve, with walk-ins given priority. Come visit us and see if Lola is the perfect addition to your family!



2023
IMPACT

CHS
Cascades Humane Society



1,200 TOTAL ADOPTIONS

384 PETS SAVED FROM HIGH-KILL OR AT CAPACITY SHELTERS

14,938 POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED

900 OWNED CATS OR DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED

Alzheimer’s Association: Events & Resources

*Adapted from the
Alzheimer’s Association*

The Alzheimer’s Association is dedicated to providing comprehensive support and resources for families affected by Alzheimer’s disease. From educational programs and support groups to volunteer opportunities and fundraising events, the Association offers a wide range of services to help caregivers and patients navigate the challenges of Alzheimer’s. Below are some key initiatives and resources available through the Alzheimer’s Association:

Unforgettable: An Alzheimer’s Family Story
“Unforgettable” is a powerful stage play that showcases the effects of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s. This dynamic and emotional family drama is presented in partnership from the Alzheimer’s Association and Gdavis Productions and Films, LLC. Creator Garrett Davis wrote “Unforgettable” in tribute to his late grandmother, Goodness, whose dementia diagnosis left his family feeling lost. Davis’ experience as a Black male caregiver inspired the story of the Davenport-Rodriguez family, who makes a plan to care for matriarch Mama D. after her Alzheimer’s diagnosis. Now, “Unforgettable” is spreading the word about Alzheimer’s — from recognizing the signs, the importance of diverse participation in clinical trials, and how all families can get the support that they need. Don’t miss “Unforgettable,” which is touring now across

the United States. See upcoming performance dates and register for free tickets in a city near you [HERE](#). September 7th will be in DETROIT at Mary Grove Conservancy (8425 McNichols Road, Detroit, MI 48221)

Support Groups

Support groups typically recur the same day and time every month. The following is a list of support groups in your area of Michigan:

- Men’s Only Caregiver Discussion Group (Eaton County) - Delta Enrichment Center
- Okemos Support Group (Ingham County) - Faith Lutheran Church
- East Lansing Support Group (Ingham County) – Burcham Hills
- Hillsdale Support Group (Hillsdale County) - Perennial Park/Hillsdale Senior
- Mason Support Group (Ingham County) - First United Methodist of Mason

Visit alz.org/crf for a complete listing, call our 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 or email helplinegmc@alz.org for help registering or finding a group to fit your needs.

Volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association

We are currently looking to recruit more Community Educator & Community Representative volunteers. If you are interested but these two roles do not fit your volunteer interests, please contact us anyways! We have many other ways to get involved!!

Community Educators are volunteer public speakers who provide Alzheimer’s Association

education programs to community audiences. Community Representatives are community engagers that raise awareness of Alzheimer’s Association programs, provide basic disease information, and link consumers to Alzheimer’s Association services.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to become a volunteer, please visit our website. We’d love to have you on board and are happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have!

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s

At the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, we’re fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments. We’re closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer’s. But to get there, we need you. Join us for the world’s largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

Here are the dates for our 2024 Walks!

- Jackson Walk – Oct. 6, 2024
- Lansing Walk – Oct. 13, 2024

Registration is open for 2024 Walk! Click [here](#) to find a Walk near you.

The new Walk Manager for the Lansing Walk is here! Please join me in Welcoming Ashley Crosser to our team. If you would like to contact Ashley directly, her email is: ancrosser@alz.org

If you have any questions about how to get involved in the Jackson Walk, please reach out to Sue Prynn at smprynn@alz.org for more info. You can also visit alz.org/walk.

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United Way Drives \$23.6 Million in Impact, Begins Next Round of Local Investments

Contributed by

United Way of South Central Michigan

United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI) announced today that local support and outside grants in 2023-24 totaled more than \$23.6 million to drive efforts addressing financial hardship and basic needs among households across six counties. UWSCMI also said it began the next round of local allocations — unrestricted dollars from United Way donors to fund local programs and partners tackling specific needs — totaling over \$3.3 million.

UWSCMI recently completed its annual impact report, “We Show Up,” which details how dollars were invested through United Way-run initiatives and local partnerships during its 2023-24 fiscal year ending March 30. Here are the highlights:

- \$8,333,413 in direct assistance through programs run by UWSCMI. These include its Program Assistance Center (utility assistance statewide), local business supports (including JobSTAR in Jackson and microbusiness grants in Kalamazoo), disaster relief, and higher-education access through the CapCAN program in the greater Lansing area.
- \$7,244,475 to run the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, providing free tax preparation for low-income households across nine counties.
- \$4,544,326 in local allocations, over and above other programs and investments listed here.
- \$1,749,040 in government grants primarily supporting food, shelter and other basic needs.
- \$1,185,197 in donor-designated investments, which are restricted gifts made by local donors through UWSCMI.
- \$583,282 to help fund the 2-1-1 information and referral system, which connects people in

need with available programs and resources.

Jen Hsu-Bishop (they/them), Executive Impact and Equity Officer for UWSCMI, said United Way was able to attract an additional \$3.28 into the region for every donor dollar given.

“The breadth and depth of our programs and investments, coupled with the added dollars we brought into the region, really shows the value United Way brings to tackling the tough issues affecting individuals and families,” Hsu-Bishop said.

Chris Sargent (he/him), President and Executive Officer, pointed out how the impact of UWSCMI’s efforts demonstrate an even more crucial value: changed lives.

“Progress happens with the support and collaboration of donors, volunteers, corporate partners, funding organizations, government leaders and local agency partners,” Sargent said. “Together we all show up for our communities and for our fellow human beings. I couldn’t be more grateful.”

New Allocations Support Local Work

For the current fiscal year, UWSCMI is investing \$3,330,429 through local nonprofit partners to support local programs.

“Local allocations are only part our overall investments, but they’re critical to targeting specific needs at a local level,” Hsu-Bishop explained.

Those investments emphasize the needs of people in financial hardship, including ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households, those experiencing poverty, and persons who have been historically oppressed and marginalized.

Local allocations are tied to unrestricted donations made locally during UWSCMI’s annual

campaign — keeping UWSCMI’s promise that local dollars stay local, Hsu-Bishop said. Here are the local allocations for the 2024-25 fiscal year:

- \$2,780,430 to 60 programs run by 59 agencies in the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo area.
- \$300,000 to 19 programs operated by 17 agencies in Jackson County.
- \$250,000 to 18 programs through 23 agencies in the Capital Area.

In addition to those allocations, UWSCMI has already invested in key local programs since April 1, among them the Community Violence Intervention, a joint effort by the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County to address gun violence (\$345,000); Seeding Health, which increases equitable access to health care for nonprofit employees in Battle Creek (\$150,000); and managed the federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program (\$466,232) in Capital Area, Jackson, and across UWSCMI’s six-county regionwide.

Hsu-Bishop acknowledged that local allocations are down compared to the previous fiscal year. They explained that it reflects the national trend in declining support for fundraising campaigns through workplace giving.

“That makes UWSCMI’s approach to tapping other resources based on our scale a vital strategy to keep dollars flowing into our communities,” they said. “At the same time, we need local donors to keep fueling our work with financial support so that, together, we can deliver even greater impact.”

To read or download a copy of UWSCMI’s latest impact report, go to unitedforscmi.org/impact-reports. To make a financial gift to UWSCMI, unitedforscmi.org/donate.

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Jackson School of the Arts: Fall Programs for Early Childhood Development

Contributed by
Jackson School of the Arts

This Fall, Jackson School of the Arts will continue to provide learning through the arts in their Childcare Academy and Kids Create Preschool Experience programs. Jackson School of the Arts takes a unique approach to its programs by utilizing the arts as a tool for learning, which helps enhance brain development and prepares children for success in school and life. The teachers and staff recognize that the early years of a child's life are key for cognitive development and are excited to make a positive impact in the lives of children this fall. The Jackson School of the Arts team strives to nurture curiosity and help children develop self-confidence through early childhood programs.

Childcare Academy is designed for ages 3 to 6 and runs daily, Monday through Friday. The full preschool environment blends education with creativity throughout the entire day and is perfect for parents who are looking for full-day childcare. The program is based on self-directed, noncompetitive activities that foster high self-esteem. Instructors help prepare children for their future educational journey by covering a range of educational topics, including beginning math, emerging literacy, memorization, and daily fine motor skills such

as scooping and pouring. Childcare Academy's curriculum is curated to help children develop important life and creativity skills that will help them thrive in the years to come. More information on this program can be found at jacksonarts.org/childcareacademy.

Kids Create Preschool Experience is geared towards ages 3 ½ to 5 and runs two mornings a week for 2 ½ hours. This program is perfect for a child's first class away from home or to supplement or substitute traditional preschool programs. Unlike Childcare Academy, which runs all year long, Kids Create Preschool Experience only runs from September to May. This program provides social, motor, and creative experiences that bring out a love for learning through the arts. The instructors, who have a passion for art themselves, guide children through activities centered around art, science, and literature through creative and colorful projects and hands-on experiences. One parent shares her experience with Kids Create Preschool Experience, saying, "I am so thankful for their guidance and support this past year to help with my child's development - socially, emotionally, and even soft academics - through the wonderful world of art." Parents can learn more about this program at jacksonarts.org/kids-create.


The staff at Jackson School of the Arts are

excited to start another great school year and meet new students this fall. With many fun activities and class field trips planned, it is sure to be an exciting fall.

Tours are available for those interested in viewing the program spaces. Please call 517-784-2389 or email info@jacksonarts.org to learn more or schedule a tour.



Photos courtesy of the Jackson School of the Arts



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College & Career Access Center, August Scholarships

Calvin L. Carrithers Aviation Scholarship
Eligibility:
Applicants must be currently enrolled in a fully accredited university aviation program: Commercial Aviation, Professional Pilot, Aviation Management, Airport Management etc. within the United States.
Description: Applicants must be willing to write a 200-500 word blog post a minimum of once a week throughout the school year while at school. Posts can be about aircraft, flying, ground training weekend activities, internships, or anything that the student finds interesting and pertains to life in their particular aviation program. In addition, each blog post must also include a hyperlink to a page on the GlobalAir.com website.
Additionally, applicants must write an essay explaining their interest in the career path they have chosen and how they plan to work towards their goals during the school year and demonstrate how they will stay consistent with the blog's weekly deadline.
Award: 4 awards of \$1,000
Deadline: August 15, 2024


Asbestos.com Scholarship
Eligibility:
• Applicant must be at least 18 years old.
• Applicant must be enrolled full-time in a U.S. institution as an undergraduate or graduate student.
• Applicant must provide 2 letters of recommendation.
Instructions:
Applicants will submit an essay that is between 750 and 1,500 words, based on the topic of asbestos.
Asbestos is a toxic mineral that causes mesothelioma, an often terminal cancer affecting more than 3,000 Americans annually. The topic you choose should bring light to the issues surrounding mesothelioma and help raise awareness about the disease, research, promising clinical trials, survivors and caregivers.
Award: One \$2,000 and one \$3,000 award

Deadline: August 31, 2024
American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) Second Chance Scholarship
Eligibility:
• The Second Chance College Scholarships Contest is open to citizens and aliens legally residing in the USA with High School Diploma, GED or equivalent.
• Scholarship funds are payable to the winner's college/university or certified trade school in the United States; winner must enroll or already be enrolled for Spring 2023 session.
• Winner selection is NOT based on financial need, GPA or demographic criteria.
• Relatives of AFSA staff or NATIONAL board members may not enter.
• Past winners of AFSA's High School Senior Scholarship Contest or AFSA's Second Chance College Scholarships Contest are not eligible to win this contest.
• Scholarship winners are randomly selected by computer-generated drawing from among valid entries received at the conclusion of the contest period.
Award: 5 awards of \$1,000
Deadline: August 31, 2024
CHASA Scholarship for Childhood Stroke Survivors
Eligibility:
• Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and: affected by either childhood hemiplegia or hemiparesis due to any cause or by pediatric stroke, with onset of condition before the age of 18.
• Currently diagnosed as having hemiplegia or hemiparesis or pediatric stroke.
• Be attending a post-secondary school leading to a degree or certification or attending a post-secondary vocational education program.
• Enrolled by Fall of the year the scholarship is awarded.
*You may reapply for consideration each year


for up to four consecutive years
Description: CHASA is proud to offer college and vocational school scholarships for students with a diagnosis of hemiplegia or hemiparesis due to any cause, or a diagnosis of pediatric stroke. CHASA has awarded scholarships annually since 2000.
Award: Maximum amount is \$3,000
Deadline: August 31, 2024
2024 Platt Family Scholarship Prize Essay Contest
Eligibility:
• The scholarship essay contest is designed for students who are full-time, undergraduate students attending an American college or university during the Spring 2022 semester. The July 31 deadline is designed to give these


students time to finish their essays, if necessary, after final exams.
• You do not have to be an American citizen, but you do need to be attending an American college or university during the eligibility period.
• The scholarship is not open to high school students. Key question to consider; when we contact your college or university registrar will they be able to confirm that you were enrolled as a full-time college student during the Spring 2022 semester? If the answer is no, you are not eligible.
• The eligibility of entrants will be confirmed by the Lincoln Forum prior to the awarding of prizes.
• Entries will be judged by the essay committee of The Lincoln Forum.
Description:
Topic for 2024: "In this current presidential election

year, which some have described as the most important in history, what arguments can be made that the 1864 Lincoln-McClellan race was indeed the most crucial of American history?"
• Entries must contain a minimum of 1,500 and a maximum of 5,000 words.
• The essay must be typed and include a works-cited page or bibliography. End notes are suggested but not required.
Award: 1st Prize \$1500 | 2nd Prize \$750 | 3rd Prize \$500
Deadline: Essays may be submitted via regular mail (postmarked before August 31, 2024) or via email (time stamped before midnight August 31, 2024)
For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at-jacksoncac.org/




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