

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

Happy Valentine's

- page 2



www.jacksfamilyguide.org



CHS

Cascades Humane Society

1515 Carmen Dr., Jackson, MI
517-787-7387 or www.CHSpets.org



Stop by and meet your next furry family member.

Connecting animals in need with people who care.

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**

Stefanie Riggs
Publisher

Morgan Riggs
Managing Editor

Savannah Riggs
Distribution

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.

FIND US AT A LOCAL BUSINESS!

For a complete list, visit jacksfamilyguide.org

EST. 2015

30 Frugal Date Night Ideas for Valentine's Day

By Victoria Beaman

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and Cupid is on his way. I personally think of this Hallmark holiday as an opportunity to spend it with anyone I care about. Sure, a classic box of chocolates is always a delight, but I'm just as fond of simple, meaningful activities that create lasting memories.



Here is a list of 30 frugal date night ideas that could inspire a lovely evening.

- Take a stroll through downtown
- Make homemade pizza together
- Go swimming at a local indoor pool
- Take a fun class together
- Try out a new sport
- Have a karaoke night
- Go to a museum
- Volunteer together
- Go ice skating
- Bake dessert from scratch
- Go rock climbing
- Have a coloring contest

- Rent a movie new to you both
- Make a music video
- Go window shopping
- Learn a new card game
- Check out a town nearby
- Play a video game
- Go on a scenic hike
- Have a picnic, indoors or out!
- Try a new workout
- Play mini golf
- Watch funny YouTube videos
- Visit the farmer's market
- Go to a small concert
- Offer to pet sit or babysit
- Play a board game
- Go to a car show
- Visit a park
- Stargaze

No matter how you celebrate, it's the moments you share that make it special. So grab a friend, a partner, or even spend some quality time with yourself, and enjoy a little love in the air. Have a happy Valentine's Day!

Victoria
XXOO

TRUE Tidbits: Credit Score 101

*Contributed by TRUE
Community Credit Union*

Using credit can be a helpful, and sometimes necessary, part of one's financial journey. Your credit score can determine whether you will qualify for new loans and credit cards, how high your interest rate will be, and how much your payments will be. A high credit score is best for obtaining loans with a good interest rate.

A Credit Score is a number, typically between 300 – 850, that represents your credit worthiness. It is based on several factors including payment history, the amount of debt you owe, and how long you've had your debt accounts. To keep your credit score healthy, you will want to make your payments on time and keep

your credit cards from being 'maxed out'. The two quickest ways to improve your credit score are by paying down the balance you owe, and making consistent on-time payments.

When discussing loans and credit cards with children, it's important for them to understand loans and credit cards are borrowed money and must be paid back. Children can also learn borrowing money is not free – there are interest charges. Interest can best be explained as the cost of borrowing money.

Credit is a valuable tool that can be extremely helpful in reaching your financial goals. Managing your debt wisely is the key to having this resource available when you need it.



Photo by Markus Winkler on Pexels

**DUST &
DAZZLE**
Cleaning Services

**RESIDENTIAL &
COMMERCIAL CLEANING**

Start the New Year out with a clean space!



517.414.7643

*Locally owned and operated.
Serving Jackson and the surrounding areas.*

Since 1973

WE PROVIDE...

- ...BUSINESS CONSULTING
- ...ACCOUNTING SERVICES
- ...PAYROLL PREPARATION
- ...TAX SERVICES
- ...RETIREMENT PLANNING
- ...COLLEGE PLANNING
- ...WEALTH MANAGEMENT
- ...FINANCIAL SERVICES

**GOLDSMITH
&
ASSOCIATES**
ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

www.goldsmithandassociates.com

517.784.4600

2508 Spring Arbor Road • Jackson

Program Helps Jackson Police Identify People with Communication Difficulties

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson

Public Information Officer



The Jackson Police Department is reminding the community of a program that helps missing people with communication difficulties. The Take Me Home Program is designed to assist officers in the identification of people with Autism, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, Down syndrome, or any other condition that makes it difficult

to communicate.

Jackson police encourage caregivers of people with limited speech abilities to sign up for the program on the City website by visiting cityofjackson.org/985/Take-Me-Home. This website section features a form where caretakers submit an individual's information such as name, address, description, condition, and emergency contact. A current photo of the person is also required. All of the information provided will be used by officers to care for someone with communication difficulties if they are encountered by police or if an active search is underway.

Police Chief Elmer Hitt says JPD launched the Take Me Home Program in 2020 and has seen dozens of local families participate. "The program is free to sign up and the information you provide is confidential," Chief Hitt said. "Enrolling in this program will assist our officers in caring for your loved one during their time of need. We also hope this will give families and caregivers some peace of mind if someone goes missing."

The program is only open to City of Jackson residents. Non-city residents should contact their local law enforcement to inquire about a similar service.



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson

JPD Officer Warren Johnson with Take Me Home webpage.

Unleash Creativity This Summer: JSA Offers Fun Classes & Camps for All Ages!

By Claire Fetterman,
Jackson School of the Arts

Jackson School of the Arts is set to make this summer an exciting season for children and adults with its lineup of summer classes and camps! From painting workshops to theater camps, the schedule offers something for everyone, ensuring a summer filled with imagination and fun.

Children as young as four can participate in engaging art classes like Hogwarts Portraits and Potions or Slime, Science & Sculpture Lab, while older kids and teens can explore specialized sessions like Intro to Acrylic Painting and Watercolor Botanicals. For budding performers, the Princess Art & Performance Camp promises enchanting activities and a royal showcase.

Adults haven't been forgotten—sessions like Girls' Night Out - Margaritaville! and Wine & Canvas offer creative relaxation with painting and refreshments, perfect for unwinding with friends.

The summer schedule also features a wide array of performing arts classes, such as Lyrical Jazz and Aerial Hoop, along with themed camps like Gym-

nastics Camp with Sonic and theater camps based on beloved stories like Lilo and Stitch and Wicked. Each camp blends skill-building, creativity, and memorable performances.

Special workshops like My 1st Class with Bluey and Cocomelon Nights allow parents to bond with their youngest children while exploring dance, art,

and gymnastics. Families can also look forward to themed events like Friday Night Out: Tiktok Rocks, offering engaging activities for kids while parents enjoy an evening off.

Classes begin in June, but registration is open now. For a full schedule and to register, visit the jacksonarts.org/summer or call 517-784-2389.



Photos courtesy of the Jackson School of the Arts

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Marshall, Buffy, & Ginger

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Marshall

Meet Marshall! He's a two-year-old American Staffordshire mix who arrived as a stray. Marshall gets along well with other dogs and loves to play. He knows a few basic commands and enjoys going for walks on a leash. This young pup comes out of his kennel full of excitement, tail wagging and ready for adventure! 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.

Buffy & Ginger

Buffy and Ginger were surrendered to the animal shelter after their owner passed away. These two are great buddies and

would love to stay together. Since they've been declawed on their front paws, they're looking for an indoor-only home where they can stay safe and comfortable. Stop by and meet them 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

This month, Pistol is looking for his forever home. Learn more about this fun-loving guy here:

Meet Pistol, a two-year-old male Catahoula Husky mix with a stunning coat of brown and tan, weighing in at 66 pounds. With his friendly, outgoing nature and love for toys, treats, and basking in the sunlight, Pistol has quickly become a favorite at Cascades Humane Society. Already neutered, microchipped, vaccinated,

and heartworm-free, Pistol is ready for his forever home. He enjoys active playtime followed by cozy naps but would thrive best in a home

from noon to 6 PM. Don't miss out on meeting this sweet, playful pup!

About the Cascades Humane Society

Organized and incorporated in 1952, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and creating lasting connections between pets and families. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgolightly@chspets.org.



2023 IMPACT

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

The Importance of Spaying and Neutering: A Vital Step for Pet Health and Population Control

*Contributed by
Cascades Humane Society*

As February marks National Spay and Neuter Month, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to spreading awareness about the crucial role spaying and neutering play in the health and well-being of our beloved pets. To commemorate this important month, CHS will be hosting a Free Spay and Neuter Day on February 28th, where Dr. Sarah Patrias and her skilled team, including Krista Collins, Christina Miller, and Danielle Villegas, Director of Shelter Operations, will perform 28 free surgeries. Half of these procedures will be dedicated to feral cats in an effort to control the stray population, while the remaining surgeries will be granted to pet owners who have demonstrated financial need through an application process.

Why Spaying and Neutering Matters

Spaying (for female animals) and neutering (for males) offer numerous benefits for both individual pets and the community at large. Here's why this procedure is essential:

Reducing Overpopulation and Homelessness

The most significant reason to spay and neuter pets is to prevent unwanted litters, which contributes to the overwhelming number of homeless animals in shelters. Every year, approximately 6.3 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters, with 3.1 million being dogs and 3.2 million being cats. Tragically, 920,000 shelter animals are euthanized annually, including 390,000 dogs and 530,000 cats. By preventing unintended breeding, we can reduce the number of animals that end up abandoned or euthanized.

Health Benefits for Pets

Spaying and neutering can greatly improve a pet's overall health and longevity. Here's how:

- **Lower Cancer Risks:** Spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer in females, while neutering prevents testicular cancer in males.

- **Reduced Risk of Infection:** Spayed females are protected from life-threatening uterine infections like pyometra, which can be fatal if untreated.

- **Decreased Aggressive Behaviors:** Neutered males are often less aggressive, less likely to roam, and less prone to marking territory



Photo by Micah on Pexels

with urine spraying.

- **Eliminates Heat Cycles:** Spayed females won't experience heat cycles, which can be stressful for both the pet and the owner.

Curbing Problematic Behaviors

Neutered males are generally less prone to roaming, which reduces the risk of being hit by cars or getting into fights with other animals. Additionally, spay-

ing and neutering can help prevent unwanted behaviors like excessive barking, howling, or mounting.

Reducing Costs for Pet Owners and the Community

Unplanned litters can be costly for pet owners, and the expense of caring for stray and abandoned animals places a financial burden on shelters and taxpayers. It is estimated that local governments spend over \$2 billion annually on stray animal control and sheltering. By preventing overpopulation, communities save money and resources that can be redirected toward other critical animal welfare programs.

Free Spay and Neuter Day at CHS

On February 28, Cascades Humane Society will take direct action by offering 28 free spay and neuter procedures. This event will not only help curb overpopulation but also ensure that

pet owners who might not otherwise afford the surgery can provide their animals with essential health-care.

Cascades Humane Society is committed to making a difference, and through initiatives like this, we continue to advocate for responsible pet ownership.

How You Can Help

- **Spread the word:** Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to spay and neuter their pets.

- **Donate:** Contributions to CHS help fund vital programs like free spay and neuter clinics. Donations can be made at <https://cascadeshumanesociety.salsalabs.org/DonateToday20/index.html>.

- **Volunteer:** Support our mission by getting involved in our community initiatives.

- **By choosing to spay or neuter your pet, you are making a compassionate decision that benefits not only your furry friend but the entire community. Let's work together to ensure that every pet has a chance at a happy, healthy life!**

For more information on our Free Spay and Neuter Day or to learn more about our programs, visit chspets.org or call us today!

Hometown Eats

February 2025 Edition

By Val Herr



I know there is a great deal of buzz about Chick-fil-A coming to Jackson. I mean who doesn't love a great piece of fried chicken? But we already have a great place for fried chicken—White's Chicken & Fish, of course. White's Chicken is located at 845 North West Avenue, Jackson.

White's Chicken has been a staple in Jackson since the 1970's. They offer dine-in and take-out. They specialize in fried chicken but also offer fish, amazing macaroni and cheese, as well as other side dishes.

I've been going to White's since I was

a child. The inside of the restaurant hasn't changed at all. If you are looking for fine dining and white tablecloths you won't find them there. What you will find is a relaxed atmosphere where everyone is welcome, and you can count on the fact that your order will be hot, amazing and consistent.

Our house is divided when it comes to our order—I prefer the chicken, while my husband prefers the fish. You won't go wrong with whatever you order.

White's doesn't offer 'healthy' options—just comfort food. Visit their website to learn more about this iconic Jackson restaurant <https://www.whitesrestaurant.com/>. The portions are generous, and the prices have remained reasonable over the years.

I give White's 4.0 stars out of 5.0.

Ella Sharp Museum Announces the 20th Anniversary Art, Beer, and Wine Festival

Contributed by Ella Sharp Museum

The Ella Sharp Museum is thrilled to announce the 20th Annual Art, Beer, and Wine Festival, a vibrant and beloved celebration of Michigan-native artists, breweries, wineries, and the local community. The festival will take place on Saturday, June 7 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the museum's historic grounds.

Traditionally, the festival brings in over 4,000 visitors and features a combination of 150 local artists, Michigan breweries, wineries, cider mills, entertainment, and great local food!

Ticket Information: Tickets for the Art, Beer, and Wine Festival are now

on sale! Early bird pricing is available with general admission and VIP options to enhance your experience. For more information, tickets, and a full lineup of participating artists and vendors, visit ellasharp-museum.org or follow us on Facebook at Ella Sharp Museum.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the museum exhibits, public education, outreach, and other programs of the Ella Sharp Museum and Hurst Planetarium, a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

About Ella Sharp Museum

The mission of the Ella Sharp Museum is to pro-

vide opportunities for everyone to explore, engage in, and enjoy history and the arts.

Ella Merriman-Sharp grew up in Jackson, MI and was a resident here from 1857 to 1912. A generous, civic-minded individual, she left her estate, Hillside Farm, and her home, the Merriman-Sharp Farmhouse, to the City of Jackson for use as a park and a museum.

Today the museum operates 11 buildings on six acres. The Hadwin Center connects seven galleries featuring changing art, science, and history exhibits for the community to explore.

Scan Code With Your Phone... or visit ivebeenframedjackson.com

Treat yourself to art that makes your home relaxing.

I've Been Framed!
Custom Framing Design Center

Residential and Commercial Framing
Custom Matting & Framing
The Areas Largest Selection of Ready-Made Mats & Frames

866 N. Wisner Street | Jackson | 517-783-3810
Mon & Fri 10 - 4 | Tues to Thurs 10 - 6 | Sat 10 - 2 | Closed Sunday
www.ivebeenframedjackson.com
Printing services available!

THE BART HAWLEY SHOW

THE MORNING SHOW JTV

JTV SPORTS

LIVE LOCAL POSITIVE COMMUNITY COVERAGE

JTV

Call **844-252-7268**
or visit us online at miscmv.org/ReturnToLearn
to enroll today.

Return to learn.

SCMV
SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN VIRTUAL

Experience Jackson and Jackson County Chamber Announce New Appointments

Contributed by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

Experience Jackson and Jackson County Chamber of Commerce announce the promotion of two employees, and the addition of a new employee.

Rachel Buchanan is promoted to Vice President of Marketing & Communications for both Experience Jackson and Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, having previously filled the role of Marketing & Development Manager for Experience Jackson. Buchanan came to Experience Jackson in 2021 following nearly two decades in the media industry. The new role incorporates continued management of partnerships both locally and regionally to promote the community from a tourism perspective, in addition to leading marketing and communications efforts for both organizations.

Tim Booth is promoted to Vice President of Community and Business Engagement for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, previously Events and Community Affairs Manager. Booth joined the Cham-

ber staff over five years ago with over two decades in guest services and large event planning. He is a lifelong Jackson resident, and attended Jackson College.

Steve Trosin fills a new role Sales & Outdoor Recreation Manager, exclusively with Experience Jackson. Trosin is deeply rooted in the Jackson community, having spent nearly his entire life here and previously serving as the Executive Director of the

Experience Jackson, and the addition of Steve Trosin to the team will help elevate our efforts to make Jackson County a tourism destination," said Ryan Tarrant, President & CEO of Experience Jackson. "These new roles will both help align the shared goals of the two organizations and advance our work to promote the community and member businesses."

Learn more about Experience Jackson at www.ExperienceJackson.com. Learn more about the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at www.jacksonchamber.org.

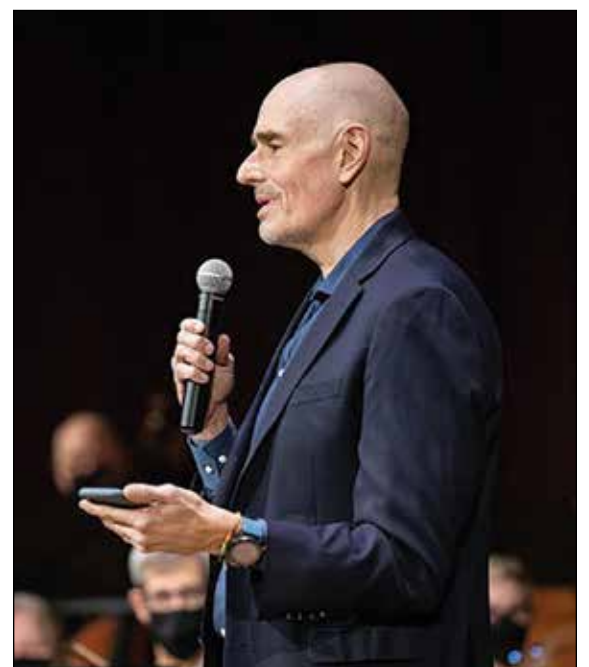
About Experience Jackson

The mission of Jackson County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Experience Jackson) is to strengthen the positive

perception of Jackson County as a must-visit destination to increase revenues and stimulate economic development and growth for the community.


About Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce is to create a vibrant, inclusive community, through meaningful partnerships, intentional connections, and engagement.



JACKSON COUNTY'S ONLY
BALANCED
CALENDAR OPTION

HUNT ELEMENTARY
ENROLL NOW!





College & Career Access Center, February Scholarships

Jackson Community Foundation Scholarships

Description: One application gives you access to 30+ different scholarships. Eligibility requirements vary from minimum GPA, area of study, new graduate or returning learner, financial need, etc.

Deadline: February 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Leaders Scholarship

Description: To help students who are seeking a career in public service and who have an interest in helping others in their communities, we have created the Spencer & Associates Community Leaders Scholarship. Through this program, we provide financial assistance to college students who have demonstrated an interest in serving their communities and who are pursuing careers in criminal justice, law enforcement, or other legal fields.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be from a household with an annual family income of \$100,000 or less.

- Applicant must have a demonstrated interest in service to their community, with a history of volunteer work or other forms of community involvement.

- Applicant must be enrolled in or planning to enter a program in the fields of criminal justice or law enforcement, or they must be enrolled in or planning to attend law school.

- Applicant must be at least 17 years old on the date they submit their application.

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: February 10, 2025

Michigan Education Association (MEA) Scholarship

Description: The Michigan Education Association is an organization dedicated to the principles of public education, advancement of quality education, and security of the rights of education employees. There are approximately 120,000 members of MEA, who are public K-12 teachers and education support

professionals; higher education faculty and educational support personnel; employees of intermediate school districts; and MEA-Retired members. Throughout its long history, MEA has remained committed to quality education and retains a prominent leadership position as a strong advocate for public education. As one means of demonstrating its commitment to public education, the MEA has established and offers the MEA Scholarship.

Eligibility:

- Dependent of MEA member or MEA-Retired member in good standing.

- Graduate of a Michigan public high school or private high school that has an MEA bargaining unit. (Diploma must be received in the year of application.)

- Will attend or is currently an undergraduate student of a Michigan public community/junior college, four-year degree-granting institution, or vocational training institution that grants a degree, certification or license. Those attending the following private institutions ONLY are also eligible: Baker College-Flint/Owosso; University of Detroit-Mercy; Adrian College; Finlandia University; and Albion College. (The aforementioned private institutions are existing local MEA affiliates.)

- Note: Children of MEA officers, fund trustees, and MEA staff are not eligible. (A child of an MEA, MESSA or MEA-FS staff person is eligible if the other parent is an MEA member in good standing).

The scholarship will not be awarded for the purpose of working on a post-baccalaureate degree.

Award: Varies

Deadline: February 10, 2025

2025 Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Description: Are you a Hispanic student planning on enrolling full-time in a four-year university or graduate school for the upcoming school year? If so, consider applying to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund! Every year, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund selects ~10,000 outstanding students as HSF Scholars

from a broad and talented pool of applicants. HSF Scholars have access to a full range of invaluable Scholar Support Services, including career services, mentorship, leadership development, knowledge building, and wellness training. HSF awards more than \$30 million in Scholarships annually and, depending upon available funds, HSF Scholars may also be eligible to receive a scholarship, which range from \$500-\$5,000 and are awarded directly to students. Keep on reading to learn more!

Eligibility:

- Must be of Hispanic heritage.

- U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, or DACA.

- Minimum of 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for high school students; minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for college and graduate students.

- Plan to enroll full-time in an accredited, public or

not-for-profit, four-year university, or graduate school, in the US, for the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Submit the FAFSA or state-based financial aid forms (if applicable).

Award: ranges from \$500 to \$5,000

Deadline: February 15, 2025

Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

Description: Applicants will be judged on having shown compassion, courage, and a strong commitment to promoting a peaceful world through a vegetarian diet/lifestyle. Winners of the scholarships give permission to release their names to the media. Applications and essays become property of The Vegetarian Resource Group. Students must submit an essay, a copy of their transcripts for the last two years of high school, a minimum of three recommendations of which at least one recommendation

must come from a teacher, and documentation regarding their passion and promotion of vegetarianism (such as published articles, photos, and newspaper stories). Finalists may be asked for more information.

Eligibility:

- Entries may only be sent by students graduating from high school in Spring 2025.


- Students must demonstrate an active role and a strong commitment in promoting a vegetarian/vegan diet and lifestyle (vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl).

- Students must attend a college or university in the U.S.

Award: One award of \$10,000 and six awards of \$5,000

Deadline: February 20, 2025


For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at jacksoncac.org.






ALLEGRA





MARKETING • PRINT • MAIL

Locally Owned Since 1988



MARKETING PRINT MAIL

DESIGN PROMO APPAREL SIGNS

(517) 784-8800
allegrajacksonmi.com
 1232 S. West Ave. • Jackson, MI 49203