

Learning is Fun at the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center

Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center (LEINWC), located on Put-in-Bay (South Bass Island), has benefited two years in a row from receiving a community grant from Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF).

“We are very grateful for the recent support from the Ottawa County Community Foundation,” said LEINWC Director Renée Fultz. “We were incredibly fortunate to receive OCCF grants that have made a huge impact.”

In 2021, LEINWC received funding to develop an animation of how the Lake Erie Islands were formed. The animation was created by Orange Peel Productions, with extensive input from Dr. Ed Herdendorf, a leading geologist in the area.



New video explains “How the Lake Erie Islands were Formed.”

“The video adds a significant educational aspect to our geology display and improves our ability to educate visitors on the unique geological history of the islands,” says Fultz. “We have had almost 6,000 visitors to the Nature & Wildlife Center this year, so far, and many have taken the time to watch the 4-minute animation.”

The video has led to many conversations with visitors fascinated with how the islands and Lake Erie were formed over the past 14,000 years.

In 2022, LEINWC also received funding for its Nature Camp program, which it tries to keep as affordable as possible for families from all backgrounds. From Middle Bass Island and Put-in-Bay, the organization welcomed approximately 125 campers — most of whom live on the Islands or have area family or friends. The water theme allowed campers to learn about water cycles, water quality, invasive plants, plastic pollution, and how these factors impact the health of the lake and drinking water.

The organization also brought back campouts for the older campers — Middle Bass and South Bass Islands (ages 9-10) and North Bass Island (ages 11-14) — after two years without, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. LEINWC was able to hire quality camp employees (at an adequate camper-to-staff ratio) and to fund kayaking and Stone Lab programs, including freshwater studies aboard the research vessel *Bio Lab*.

“We love being able to provide that important connection to nature in a safe and fun environment,” concluded Fultz, adding that, for the younger group, this is often a child’s first camping experience. “The kids had a blast ... Nature Camp was a wonderful success, this year, thanks to the funding from OCCF and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. We are so grateful for the support!”



Nature Camp participants practice using binoculars to search for birds.

For more information, visit lakeerieislandswildlife.com.

Ottawa County Community Foundation

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Julene Market Joins the OCCF Board



Julene Market

Julene Market, of Put-in-Bay, joined the OCCF Board of Trustees this past spring. Julene is Co-Owner and Marketing Director of Miller Boat Line, a family business owned and operated by the Market Family since 1978. Recently, she and her brothers Billy and Scott welcomed home the fifth and newest ferry in the Miller Boat Line fleet — the *Mary Ann Market*, named in honor of their mother.

Julene received her Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism/Public Relations from Kent State University and has been involved in area tourism her entire life. With the goal of enhancing brand, image, and community relations, her experience has benefited many, many community organizations, over the years. In addition to being on the Marketing Committee for Lake Erie Shores & Islands, Julene served on the Boards of Ottawa County Visitor's Bureau (16 years), Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, North Coast Cancer Foundation, and Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. She helps promote Nature and Eco-Tourism events on Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island.

A life-long islander, Julene is proud of her part in the celebration of Miller Boat Line's 100th Anniversary and the planning of the Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial (2013), the largest naval battle ever recreated at that time. An avid reader and advocate for children's literacy, she also helped spearhead Put-in-Bay StoryWalk. In her spare time, Julene also enjoys hiking and spending time outdoors.

Julene's experience and local knowledge is already making an impact, and OCCF is thrilled to have her "aboard." Welcome, Julene!

Joy Roth Little Tiger Award Presented



Jeff Roth presents the Joy Roth Little Tiger Award to Kathy Barbee, founder of Christy's Corner Café.

The 2022 *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award* was presented to Christy's Corner Café in Elmore at the annual Awards Breakfast in June. The award was established to honor the legacy of Joy Roth, founder and long-time President of the Ottawa County Community Foundation.

The *Little Tiger Award* recognizes champions in the area who go above and beyond to give back to the community. The honor includes a framed certificate and \$500 grant, made possible by Mr. Jeff Roth.

"Joy loved to visit Christy's Corner Café and wanted to see them succeed," says Roth. "We often would take a trip to Elmore for coffee or breakfast and to see how they were doing."

Christy's Corner Café helps pave the way to long-term employment for individuals with special needs through job training while inspiring a culture of acceptance and awareness within the community. Kathy Barbee, the founder of Engaging Opportunities Foundation which operates the café, accepted the check on behalf of the nonprofit organization.

GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) has awarded grants totaling \$82,350 to thirty-six area nonprofit organizations this year. These grants provide seed money for meeting needs within our community in the fields of education, health and social services, economic development, natural resources, and the arts.

Funding for these grants is made possible from numerous donations as well as earnings from several unrestricted Community Funds and Donor Advised Funds held by OCCF. These funds include: Kenneth and Naomi Akins Family Fund, Bob and Grace Armbruster Fund, Beck Family Fund, Earl J. Johnson Fund, Jane Ellen Gulau Fund, Joseph and Eleanor Kokinda Fund, OCCF Fund, Lenore Peterson-Blackburn Fund, Dr. James I. and Priscilla Rhiel Fund, Paul H. Rofkar Fund, Special Initiatives Support Fund for Schools, Harry Stensen Memorial Fund and Dave and Jeanne Thierwechter Fund.

Arc of Ottawa County
Cancer Services
Catawba Island Historical Society
Christy's Corner Café
Courageous Community Services
Cultivate the Clover of Ottawa County
Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center
Firelands Symphony Orchestra
Friends of Ottawa County Parks
Goodwill Industries
Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council
Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County
Jacob's Joy
Joyful Connections
Lake Erie Foundation
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy
Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center
Lakeside Heritage Society
Light House Sober Living
Luther Home of Mercy
Marblehead Lighthouse Bicentennial Comm
Musical Art Series
Oak Harbor Development Group
Oak House
Ottawa County Ag. Society
Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center
Ottawa County Museum
Ottawa County Transitional Housing
Otterbein SeniorLife Marblehead
Port Clinton Firefighters Association
Project Noelle
PIB Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
Salvation Army
Schedel Arboretum and Gardens
United Way in Ottawa County

Summer enrichment camp for students with disabilities
Services and resources for cancer patients in Ottawa Co.
Laser printer/portable sound system
Joy Roth Little Tiger Award
Costs of camp for people with developmental disabilities
Camp counselor expenses, supplies, training
50 Shades of Purple outdoor painted awareness mural
Free concerts in Port Clinton and Marblehead
Support projects to promote Catawba Islander Bike Trail
Wellness program for employees with disabilities
Construct beached fish for recycling bottles
Home repairs and ramps for people in need
Hospital care packages for those experiencing infant loss
Supplies to build and maintain a raised garden bed
Interactive plastics and microplastics museum display
Great Lakes Island Alliance conference support
Supplies for nature camp - South Bass & Middle Bass Islands
Rehouse collections using preservation-quality materials
Sober recreational activities and healthy living activities
Disability-friendly book collection at Genoa Library
Concerts as part of Bicentennial at the Lighthouse
Senior concerts and grandparents concerts
Oak Harbor Barkyard - dog park materials
Create butterfly garden and expand existing garden
Animal & Me Showmanship for youth with disabilities
Expand community garden and construct fruit stand
Frame two prints and purchase printer
Construct garden for Ruth Ann's House families
Pickleball and shuffleboard courts and putting green
Thermal imaging camera for firefighters
Kids' support group materials/training, clothing
Signage for new brand "An Everyday Island Getaway"
Food Pantry
5-day overnight Camp NEOSA for 31 at-risk children
Summer Science Camp
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for children 0-5 yrs.



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*“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the
compassionate actions of its members.”* *Coretta Scott King*

Gifts in support of the Ottawa County Community Foundation may be made at any time by sending a check, donating online at ottawaccf.org (click *Donate*), or contacting Executive Director Shea McGrew or any Board member.

Thank you for supporting the Foundation, so we may continue to serve our community.

Please Consider a Gift to the OCCF Sustainability Fund

Enclosed is my/our gift : ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$500 ___\$1000 ___Other \$ ___

Return this form with your check payable to: *Ottawa Co. Community Foundation, P.O. Box 36, Port Clinton, OH 43452*

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I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

I would like information on including OCCF in my estate plans.

I would like information on establishing a fund.

This publication shares news about Ottawa County Community Foundation, as we fulfill our mission of creating philanthropy and making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Ottawa County Community Foundation is a public charitable foundation affiliated with Greater Toledo Community Foundation.