The first Anna Frutiger Memorial Scholarship was awarded through the Gratiot County Community Foundation on May 1, 2011, memorializing Anna, who died unexpectedly on May 20, 2010, at the age of 23. A graduate of Alma High School (AHS) and Kenyon College, Anna was a student at the University of Pittsburgh (U of P) School of Dentistry. She was following in the footsteps of her parents Dr. Sara Wassenaar and Dr. Richard Frutiger and her late grandfathers Dr. Frank Wassenaar and Dr. Raymond Frutiger.

Her sudden death from a deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism strongly touched the Gratiot community. As a result, a scholarship fund was established through the Foundation. People from across the United States contributed more than $25,000 to start the fund to provide an annual scholarship to support a student who is pursuing a doctoral degree in medicine or dentistry. Preference will be given to AHS graduates, but graduates from any Gratiot County high school will be considered.

Anna had been very active in the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) during her years at AHS. She was a dancer, a swimmer, and a member of the AHS volleyball and tennis teams. She graduated from AHS as one of the class valedictorians in 2005. At Kenyon College she majored in molecular biology. She touched many lives at Kenyon and was loved by both friends and professors. In continuing her education at U of P, she bonded with her fellow dentistry students and belonged to the dental fraternity Delta Sigma Delta and the American Student Dental Association. Anna lived her life with passion and determination and will be remembered for her hard work and perseverance in everything she did.

The recipient of the first Anna Frutiger Memorial Scholarship is Morgan Whitmore. Morgan is a graduate of AHS, Alma College, and is presently a third-year student attending the Michigan State University School of Human Medicine. He is the son of Robin and Dale Whitmore of Alma.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” — Margaret Mead.

They may not be changing the world, but the Ithaca Community Alumni Association (ICAA) is certainly working to bring about change in their hometown, starting with the Ithaca High School football field. The renovations will improve accessibility, concessions, lavatories, and overall comfort and appearance of the facility. Donations in support of the project can be made to the Foundation’s ‘Project Pride Fund’. Every dollar in contributions is eligible for a charitable tax deduction and will be matched by the Steve Smith Family until the projected $850,000 is raised.

For more information or to make a donation, contact the Foundation at 875-4222 or consult the ICAA website at www.ithacacommunityalumni.org.
Advisor to Advisor
A special message for professional advisors

If you have clients who take charitable giving personally, you should know about the Gratiot County Community Foundation’s Donor Advised Funds (DAF). This type of fund is a logical alternative to the somewhat onerous process of establishing and managing a private foundation due to its ease of setup and administration, tax benefits for contributions, no excise taxes imposed and no minimum payout requirements.

As donor advisors, your clients remain involved in where grants from their fund are awarded and receive attractive tax benefits for contributions. The Foundation’s staff offers their knowledge of quality programs in need of funding and expertise in handling all due diligence in awarding the grants from the DAF. In addition, the Foundation keeps abreast of all legislation and IRS guidelines and manages all filing necessary.

DAFs are also a wonderful way to engage children in the practice of philanthropy to carry on the legacy of giving back to the community. As a permanently endowed fund, that tradition will live on in the donor’s name forever.

For more details on how to start a DAF with the Gratiot County Community Foundation, contact Tina Travis today at (989) 875.4222 or at gccf@edzone.net. Your clients will appreciate you offering information about this attractive alternative to establishing and managing their own private foundation.

Dick Abbott-A True ‘Friend of the Foundation’

Dick Abbott, retired president of Commercial Bank in Ithaca, was presented with the Foundation’s 2010 “Friend of the Foundation” Award. This honor was created to recognize donors and volunteers who go above and beyond in their commitment to the success of the Foundation.

Having served his full nine-year term on the Foundation’s Board of Directors, Dick retired in 2007. The Foundation’s Executive Director, Tina Travis said, “Dick is not only a great leader, he’s a volunteer who is willing to push up his sleeves and get the job done. Although no longer on the Board of Directors, Dick continues to volunteer whenever called upon.”

During his tenure, he was instrumental in establishing the Foundation’s Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who create planned gifts benefiting the organization. He and his wife established the Janet Cooper Abbott and Richard Abbott Scholarship Fund through the Foundation. It provides an annual scholarship for a Fulton High School graduate.

“I have always felt it was a privilege to be able to work with this fine organization and the outstanding people who serve it,” Dick said. “I saw my work with the Foundation as a chance for me to give something back to Gratiot County in partial payment for all the opportunities offered to the Abbott family by this wonderful community.”

In his honor, the Foundation presented the Richard Abbott Friend of the Foundation Grant to the Gratiot County Commission on Aging to honor its work on behalf of senior citizens in Gratiot County.

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Tina Travis, Janet Abbott, Craig Zeese & Dick Abbott

The Bridge Builder

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A Life’s Work, a Legacy: Don Schurr Giving Back

As Executive Director of Greater Gratiot Development Corporation (GGDC), Don Schurr has made the betterment of Gratiot County the focal point of his career. When the Foundation began in 1992, Don was one of its founding members and recognized that a connection between the two organizations was not only logical, but necessary.

About the same time, his parents Don and Verna Schurr established a charitable remainder trust and named the Foundation as a beneficiary. Thus the Schurr Family joins the growing list of members of the Foundation’s Legacy Society.

Don explained that the bequest will likely become part of the Foundation’s Greater Gratiot Development Fund which was established to support the activities of GGDC as it supports the welfare of Gratiot County.

Don has dedicated much of his professional career to the success of Gratiot County. Now, his family’s planned gift to the Foundation will assure that his legacy continues that work.

“The Foundation reflects what is good about the County and the family found it an attractive opportunity to help Gratiot County in the future,” Don says. “I think my dad would have been happy that we chose to do something to improve our home community.”

Anyone may become a member of the Legacy Society by simply naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will or trust. Tina Travis is happy to discuss the existing charitable giving options through the Foundation or how you may establish your own fund with a planned gift. Contact her for more information.

The Legacy Society

Richard and Janet Abbott  
Steven and Kristen Bakker  
Ceo Bauer  
The Late Marguerite J. Brown  
The Late Carson Fraker  
The Late Ada Greening  
Mark and Cheryl Grueneberg  
Edward Hooper and the Late Carol Hooper  
Rudy and Jennifer Hornus  
Phil and Sue Kench  
The Late Carl and Esther Macklin  
Loraine Mayes and the Late Bill Mayes  
John McCormack  
Nancy McKim and the Late Douglas McKim  
Edwin and Dawn Meyer  
The Late Betty Miller  
Marlene Miller  
The Late Duaine Mizer  
Kim and Ellie Newson  
David and Marilyn Nichols  
Howard and Gladys Poindexter  
The Late Charles and Esther Robinson  
The Schurr Family Trust  
Linda S. Williams  
Keith and Judy Wing

Memorize Your Loved One with a Gift Today

The Foundation joins family and friends in remembering those loved ones memorialized with donations over the past year—May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

John B. Baublitz  
Arnie Bransdorfer  
Jean S. Brown  
Robert L. Brown  
Charles Carey  
Molly Castillon  
Carolyn Cosan  
John Coyle  
Nellie Custer  
Earl Davidson  
Margaret (Peg) Devine  
Sam Dunbar  
Richard Ebright  
Vivian Emery  
Ken Foote  
Anna Frutiger  
Larry Gabrion  
Charles & Maxine Gehrcke  
Leo Goodyear  
James Hall, M.D.  
Fred Jones  
Ronald Knapp  
Bruce Lippert  
Robert W. MacDonald  
Bill Mayes  
Floyd S. McClintic  
Nancy L. McKenzie  
Tammy Mochen  
Bruce Moeggenborg  
William Mosher  
Don Narragon  
Gene and Olga (Jo) Neely  
Mervin Paradise  
Don and Irene Pavlik  
Ray Post  
Richard D. Prestage  
Rex Sadler  
Thomas Sprague  
Jana Thorsen  
Joyce Urie
Mr. Winsor’s Salmon Raising Extravaganza!

Jeremy Winsor was in search of a unique way to give his Earth Science students at Fulton High School a hands-on learning experience and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Salmon in the Classroom program was a perfect fit. With a Foundation grant, the project began with a long bus trip to Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery in Mattawan, Michigan. There, the students learned about MDNR management practices, conservation efforts, and egg-taking procedures before collecting the 200 Chinook ‘King’ Salmon eggs they would raise and study over the next six months.

From that point forward, every aspect of the process became a learning experience: what to feed them and how much, water quality testing, observing and documenting genetic abnormalities and the natural selection process. Each lesson in the curriculum took on greater meaning with their first-hand experiences.

Then, on a windy day in May, the release took place. More than 40 students rotated through different lessons. Some studied plant and wildlife and tested water quality, while others fished for potential prey of their young salmon, identifying their catch and recording statistical measurements. The “Release Team” measured the temperature of the water, gradually normalizing the temperature in the buckets of salmon before releasing them into the great lake tributary as shown to the right.

Students sang praise of the project. As an unexpected end, several students are now considering careers in biology and conservation.

For more information, visit www.fulton@edzone.net, click on Teachers, then Mr. Winsor.

Local Students Thankful for Local Donors

More than 100 people gathered on May 1 for the Third Annual Scholarship Awards Reception where nearly $30,000 in scholarships were awarded. The event paired recipients and their families with the generous donors who established the funds which make the scholarships possible. Students from every high school in Gratiot County were represented.

The Bridge Builder

A Year of Youth
Service and Philanthropy

National Honor Society, soccer team, church youth group, jazz band, pom squad—these are just a few of the commitments our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members might have and yet, they make the time to be YACers. YAC is made up of nearly 100 high school students who learn first hand the value of giving back to their community by participating in numerous service projects throughout the year.

Volunteerism

Whether it is while raking leaves or delivering food for senior citizens, preparing cookie containers for families served by food pantries, or spending their Thanksgiving holiday at Community Cafe, YACers learn the value of giving back to their community through hands-on experience. Olivia Waldron, Ithaca High School, has “had my eyes opened to the hardships that people have had to face or are currently facing and it gives me that warm feeling knowing that I am helping them, even just a little bit.”

Philanthropy

YAC has awarded more than $100,000 in grants to other youth to learn the value of volunteerism. Youth fill out applications for money to help them complete a service project; yes, even kindergarteners do it! YAC members then review the applications and present their funding recommendations to the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Classrooms, 4-H Clubs, Little League Teams, and Boy Scout Clubs are just some of the youth groups that have been selected to receive YAC grants in the past.

Boy Scouts from Breckenridge wanted to fix up Jaycee Park. They had the ideas, the approval, and the man-power, but didn’t have the money to make it happen. YAC provided $1,200 for them to plant trees and refurbish the shuffleboard court this summer.

Even kindergarteners give back! Mrs. Vance’s Kindergarten classroom at Carrie Knause Early Childhood Learning Center in St. Louis had the idea to make “Welcome to Kindergarten Bags” to give to next year’s students at Kindergarten Round Up (pictured at the left). The bags contained tools the students thought would be helpful in making the adjustment to the classroom.

Leadership

YAC is open to all high school students in Gratiot County to learn the value of volunteerism and philanthropy and to exercise their leadership skills. As a youth driven organization, it takes hard work from active youth leaders to coordinate projects, meetings, and events. Lane Thompson, Alma High School, values the entire YAC experience stating, “I have also been able to spend time with community leaders, people who are role models to me and many others. YAC has opened my eyes to the community around me.”

YAC & Alma/St. Louis Rotary
Team Up to Launch
“A Year of Service”

YAC and the Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club are joining forces to launch “A Year of Service” in honor of several community-minded people lost in 2010: Anna Frutiger; James Hall; Donald and Irene Pavlik; and Earl Davidson.

Ginna Holmes, Rotary Club President, said “We would like to celebrate their lives by asking people to commit to providing 10-20 hours or more of service-leading to a larger goal of 5,000+ hours of service for the year.” Craig Zeese, Foundation Board President added, “Nonprofits, especially now, are asked to do more with less. Volunteers are critical to our success.”

Contact Ginna Holmes at holmes@alma.edu or the Foundation at gccf@edzone.org for more information.

Interested in joining YAC, check us out on Facebook-GCCF Youth Advisory Council or contact the Foundation at gccf@edzone.net for more information.
Gratiot County Community Foundation Board of Directors

**OFFICERS**
President-Craig Zeese, Commission on Aging
Vice President- Kevin Collison, Commercial Bank
Treasurer-Tim Miller, Isabella Bank
Secretary-David McMacken, Retired, Alma Public Schools

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Heidi Sitts, Chemical Bank and Trust
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**Honorary Director**-Sharon Fenton, United Way
YAC Advisor-Ginna Holmes

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