

Beautifying Buchanan

The Buchanan Tree Friends are ditching their old way of watering 100+ trees for a more efficient and effective way thanks to a **For Good Grant** from Berrien Community Foundation.

Buchanan Tree Friends in partnership with the City of Buchanan will purchase a 300-gallon water trailer.

“This watering trailer is going to be quite a relief,” Buchanan Tree Friends board chair Richard Martin said. “The milk jugs and buckets were all we had and we did all we could with them. It used to take me a half hour to water with 50 gallons. Now, I’m going to be able to water that in just a few minutes.”

Buchanan Tree Friends volunteer Elaine Rowland echoed Martin’s sentiments.

“We’re a group of volunteers who give as much time and energy as we’re able,” Rowland said. “So the fact we have this trailer makes the time we are able to give more efficient and effective.”

The group maintains around 150 trees in the community and plants more throughout the year. A tree needs to be watered and properly maintained the first three years of its life, volunteer Ann Tuite said.

Buchanan Tree Friends is one of **29 groups receiving a For Good Grant** this cycle. In total, more than **\$190,000 was awarded**.

“What is remarkable about our grantees is the ingenuity they show in their programming,”



Pictured from left: Buchanan Tree Friends Cole Martin and Elaine Rowland; Buchanan city commissioner Dan Vigansky; BCF Program Director Susan Matheny; and Buchanan Tree Friends Richard Martin, Ann Tuite and Brian Murphy.

said BCF Program Director Susan Matheny. “From Watervliet to Niles, no matter the community issue, our grantees approach them with a creative eye and they get results!”

Applications for the next cycle of For Good Grants are due February 28. To see a complete list of winners, visit www.berriencommunity.org/news.

Upcoming Deadlines

February 14 – Heart of Cook Grants
February 15 – Golden Acorn Classroom Grants
February 28 – For Good Grants
March 1 – Scholarship applications due
March 14 – Heart of Cook Earth Day Grant

March 15 – Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grants
April 12 – Big Idea Grant from Frederick S. Upton Foundation
April 30 – Alamar Nonprofit Sustainability Grant

Scholarship Season Underway

Scholarship season has started at Berrien Community Foundation, and there's a new way of submitting applications for the **more than 50 opportunities!**

Students now submit just one application online to apply for any scholarship for which they are eligible! In 2022, BCF awarded \$368,000 to more than 65 students. The online process is intended to help busy students who are tight on time.

Many people assume that scholarships are **only** awarded to students with a stellar GPA, but that is simply not true. Most of our scholarships have a 2.5 GPA requirement. While there are opportunities for students who have achieved high academic status, there are also many opportunities for those pursuing a particular career path, avid volunteers, artists or, most especially, those with financial need. Adults who are returning to further their education are also encouraged to apply.

To begin the scholarship process, visit www.berriencommunity.org/scholar. Applications are due **March 1, 2023**. The website also has a full list of scholarships and links to outside scholarship opportunities.

Oh, What A Night

Thanks for making our **Journey Through The Decades** 70th anniversary celebration a blast! Here's to another 70 years of helping needs meet resources in Berrien County.



Caring For Seniors

Many volunteers were hard at work letting senior citizens know they are being thought of this winter season.

More than 75 families answered the call to help pack **Senior Care Kits**, which were full of basic care items and some sweet treats, too. Each family was tasked with assembling the kits and writing a personal note that went out to some of our most vulnerable and homebound seniors.

In total, they packed over 900 Senior Care Kits!

Our friends at **Meals on Wheels** and **Area Agency on Aging** helped distribute the gifts.

Funds from **BCF's Senior Empowerment Endowment** and partnerships with Frederick S. Upton Foundation, Heart of Cook, Honor Credit Union, Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan, De Groot Family Foundation and private donations helped with funding and supplies to make this project possible.

