



# WORDS from WAYNE

## Welcome to our newsletter!!

As I was thinking about what I should write this quarter, it came to me that I should tell you about a special mission that has happened within the Foundation. It did not start out as a mission, but it has certainly turned into one that brings everyone who is involved great excitement to see what is happening. What is it? It is our Youth Board. When we talked about the original mission of the Foundation, "Making a Difference One Child at a Time", it never really dawned on me that at some point "Making a Difference" would involve teens helping to make that difference.

The creation of the Youth Board has taken on a tremendous role within the Foundation. By having the Youth Board members interact with the kids we are helping and recognizing, whether it is shoe shopping with them, giving bikes away, awarding scholarships, doing face painting, working at Tinsel Tree or just being available to talk with the kids we are recognizing, they have become a "force" within the Foundation.

I know there are times when teenagers get a bad rap, but if you ever begin to feel that way all you need to do is come and talk with the teens on the Just for Kids Youth Board. I believe you will get a whole new perspective. These kids are truly amazing and every time they interact with the kids we are helping and recognizing, they become even more amazing. It makes me so proud to have them represent the Foundation.

The Youth Board may have been my idea, but they could never have done what they do without you and your financial support. It means everything to the success of the Foundation. Last quarter I asked that you consider continuing to help us out, and to those of you who did, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart! For those of you who haven't helped recently, I want to ask you to please consider donating to the Foundation to help us continue our mission of "Making a Difference One Child at a Time!"

For all that you have done, and for all that you continue to do, know how grateful I am!

Until next quarter, may God bless you and your families,

Wayne



## Highlighted Organization

### Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center

Our mission is “to serve the veteran who served us.” The VA Saginaw Healthcare System is committed to providing our patients with the highest Quality of Care in an environment that is safe. We do this by focusing on Continuous Process Improvement and by supporting a Culture of Safety.

The VA relies on the goodwill of its donors and volunteers. If you are interested in donating or volunteering your time, contact the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center at: 1500 Weiss St. • Saginaw MI 48602 • (989) 497-2500

## Veterans Affairs Hospital

Recently, our Just for Kids Youth Board shopped for some winter necessities & personal care items for residents of the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. They delivered the items and got to visit with the veterans. The Youth Board is very proud to be able to give back to our local Veterans who served our country.



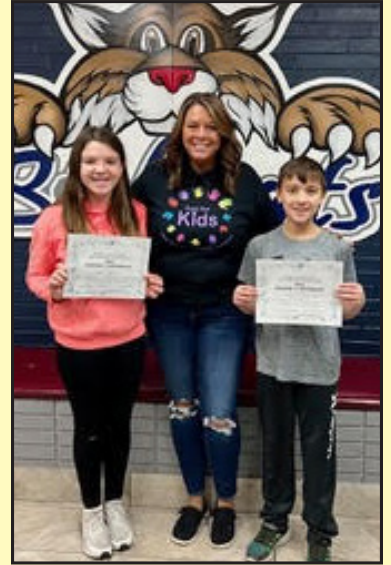
## Pinconning Boys & Girls Club Christmas Party

This past Christmas, the Just for Kids Youth Board got word from the director of the Pinconning Boys & Girls Club that all the kids at the club were working really hard at school, helping at the club and giving back to their community. We thought that was pretty cool, so we decided to surprise them with a Christmas party! The kids at the club were super excited and very thankful for the gifts and fun activities!



# Making A Difference Awards

Each school year, our board members reward and recognize kids at local elementary schools who are making a difference in their school. The schools always have a program in place to recognize these kids, and we come in once a month and choose one of those kids for an extra special Just for Kids gift. Each child chosen receives a Just for Kids t-shirt, candy and a gift card of their choice. Just for Kids believes it is important to let kids know that their efforts don't go unnoticed!



## The Tinsel Tree Challenge

In December, the Tinsel Tree Challenge was once again held at Christa McAuliffe Middle School in Bangor Township. So many beautiful trees and wreaths were decorated by Bay Area elementary and middle school classrooms. Visitors were able to vote for their favorites with unlimited \$1 donations. All funds donated went back to the classrooms that participated. We were able to give back a remarkable \$43,337! Thank you to all who attended and participated in this fun filled day! A big thank you to our sponsors who made this a free event for all participants, Maier & Associates Financial Group, Prime Brothers Furniture and Thumb Bank. Since its inception, the Tinsel Tree challenge has given back just over \$182,000 to Bay Area elementary and middle school classrooms!





*Thank you to the Board Members of the Maier & Associates Charitable Foundation! Because of your donations of time and talent, we have been able to actively make a difference in the lives of kids in the Great Lakes Bay Region!*

Wayne & Rita Maier, of Maier & Associates Financial Group, Founders  
Lisa Rechsteiner, of Graff Bay City, President  
Carrie Dahlberg, Executive Director  
Laura Maier, of Maier & Associates, Secretary  
Joseph Maier, of Maier & Associates, Treasurer  
Stephanie Maier, Director of Youth Board  
Amy McDaniel, of Maier & Associates, Board Member  
Lynn Shawl, of Thelen Auto Group, Board Member  
Molly Rauschert, of Thumb Bank, Board Member

## Interview with a Youth Board Member



**Name:** Jackson Vrable

**Grade:** 11th Grade

**School:** John Glenn High School

**How long have you been a part of The Just for Kids Youth Board:** 3 years

**What is your favorite project that you have been a part of on the youth board:** My favorite project that I have been a part of is our Tinsel Tree Challenge

**What part of the youth board mission do you connect with the most:** I connect the most with giving back to our community. I love being able to help people in our area and make things better.

**Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board:** I am inspired by seeing all the hard work our youth board puts into supporting people who aren't as fortunate. Not only does it put a smile on their faces but also ours.

**What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future:**

In the future I plan on using the skills I learned from the Just for Kids Youth Board to further my involvement in the community. One of the most important skills I have learned while being a part of Just for Kids youth board is teamwork. Being able to work in a team is very important to me as it's a skill I can use for the rest of my life.

### YOUR \$25 DONATION

Your \$25 donation could help us provide a gift card to a local business to be given to one of our Making a Difference award winners.

### YOUR \$50 DONATION

Your \$50 donation could help us purchase shoes or clothing for a needy child in one of our local elementary schools.

### YOUR \$100 DONATION

Your \$100 donation could help us purchase a scooter to be given away as a citizenship award to a local child.

### YOUR \$150 DONATION

Your \$150 donation could help us purchase a bike to be given away at one of our bike drops at local elementary schools.

### YOUR \$500 DONATION

Your \$500 donation could help support a Youth Board activity, allowing them to choose a local non-profit to purchase items for.

### YOUR \$1500 DONATION

Your \$1500 donation could cover the cost of a college scholarship for an area high school student.

*Please make checks payable to Just for Kids. Thank you for your continued support!*