



WORDS from WAYNE

Spring is finally here! This is my favorite season of the year because it represents new beginnings as well as having summer just around the next bend.

Even though it is my favorite season, it gets me thinking of the kids in our communities that are about to lose one of their main sources of food when school is over. Over the last few years Maier & Associates has been working with the Just For Kids (JFK) foundation to help provide food for over 100 kids on weekends through a program called Blessings in a Backpack. Even though we support more than 100 kids, there are still hundreds more we cannot reach. We bring food to the schools and the food is placed in the backpacks of the kids who will likely experience hunger over the weekend. Once school ends, we no longer can get food in the hands of these kids, which does not set well with me. While there are summer food programs available, this is an area in which we plan to look to expand our involvement soon.

Our Youth Board continues to amaze me with their dedication, caring, compassion and commitment to community involvement...helping a family who lost their home to a fire, helping our Veterans and First Responders, shoe shopping with kids in need, and their next project is to work with Sleep in Heavenly Peace building beds for kids that do not have one. The Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization delivered over 600 beds in 2023 in Bay County alone.

The more that I am involved with the JFK foundation the more aware I become of all the needs of the kids right here in our own backyards. It truly saddens me when I hear about kids that don't have a bed to sleep in or who have no food to eat, no shoes and no one who is able to provide for them. It rededicates me and our entire foundation to do everything we can to make a difference for each child we encounter.

As I have said before, none of this could have happened or can continue to happen without your generosity. To say thank you doesn't seem to be enough, but that is all I have. I promise you that your continued generosity is something I will be eternally grateful for, and I will continue to pray that God will bless you and your loved ones.

Thank you once again for your continued support,

Wayne



Tinsel Tree Challenge 2023

Tinsel Tree was a HUGE success this year! As a reminder, local classrooms in Bay City claim a tree that is donated by our sponsors. The classroom decorates their tree, and the public gets to come and “vote” for a tree by purchasing a \$1 ticket for that tree. At the end of the day, 100% of funds from the tickets sold for each tree go back to that classroom. Also, lots of extra prizes are awarded for creativity. This year we were able to raise a whopping \$43,807 which all went back to the classrooms! A big thank you goes out to the 60+ volunteers that help pull this off, as well as our sponsors and local celebrity judges!

- Presenting Sponsor-Maier & Associates Financial Group, Inc.
- Event Sponsor-Prime Brothers Furniture
- Event Sponsor-Thumb Bank
- Matt Schmidt, Bangor Township Superintendent
- Patrick Malley-Bay City Public Schools Chief Academic Officer
- Dean Treichel, Bay County Deputy Sheriff
- Ben Krzyminski, Bay City Public Safety



\$500
Best Kids
Handmade
Mrs. Cederstrom
Inspired by
Nature
2nd Grade
Linwood
Elementary



\$1000
Wayne's choice
Tree winner
Ms. Sinclair
Our Cups
Overflow
With Gratitude
3rd Grade
Hampton
Elementary



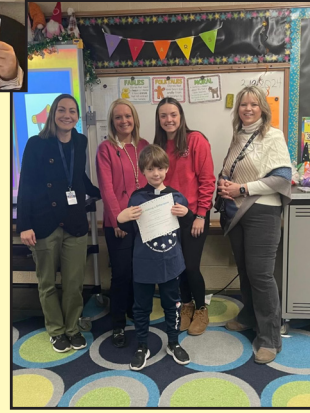
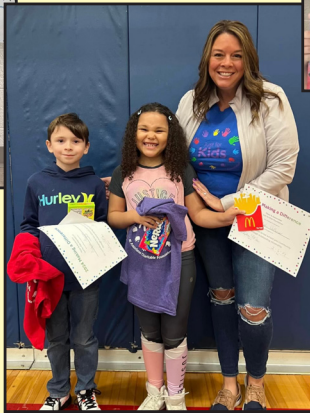
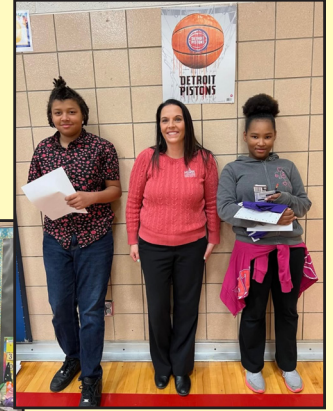
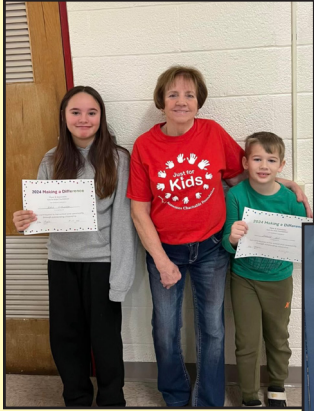
Local School Care Packages



Our Youth Board recently decided to build “care packages” for local elementary schools. The care packages were filled with many things needed by the school, which may not always fit in the school’s regular budget. Items like, socks, hairbrushes, shampoo, band aids, underwear, deodorant, lice kits and more. This is our way of saying thank you to the staff that go above and beyond taking care of children that walk through their doors every day. Our hope is that our small contribution will help the staff meet those needs!

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 the award winner is chosen by the teachers and staff at the school 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!



Local House Fire

We were recently made aware of a local family that suffered a house fire. Our Youth Board checked their annual budget and stepped into action to do what they could to offer help. The group enjoyed shopping for clothes, winter apparel, toys and games for the 3 kids who are part of this family. This Youth Board really knows how to identify needs and make things happen!

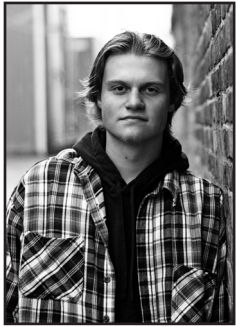




Thank you to the Board Members of the Maier & Associates Charitable Foundation! Because of your donations of time and talent, we have been able to actively make a difference in the lives of kids in the Great Lakes Bay Region!

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: Cameron Krzyminski

Grade: 12th

School: John Glenn High School

How long have you been a member of the Just for Kids youth board? 4 years

What is your favorite project that you have been a part of on the youth board? My favorite project was when we shopped for less fortunate families during Christmas time.

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board? I would say my mom, because I watch her help people everyday and wanted to do the same.

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? I'd like to buy care packages for those in need. It is an easy task which can help out a family in need a lot!



Name: Alina Damic

Grade: 12th

School: John Glenn High School

How long have you been a member of the Just for Kids youth board? 4 years

What is your favorite project that you have been a part of on the youth board? My favorite project is always Tinsel Tree. I love to spread the holiday cheer!

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with the most? Helping others. It is so nice that we are able to give back and help others with resources that are made available to the youth board through the Just for Kids foundation.

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? Definitely buying and donating "back to school" supplies for kids who are less fortunate and need them.

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!