



WORDS from WAYNE



It's hard to believe that not only are we into 2025, but January and February are behind us, and spring is on the way! It seems the older I get the faster time flies by.

Requests to the Foundation continue to be submitted and this time of the year brings lots of requests for shoes, boots, warm clothes, and coats. The one thing that still gets to me is the fact that we have kids out there needing these types of items, and no repeat requests. I think about my grandkids and how these items are not even on their minds for themselves. But I am proud to say these items are on their minds for kids in our communities. For me, I am just very thankful that because of you, we can fill these requests and make sure these kids are prepared for winter.

At the end of last year, we sponsored our 10th Annual Tinsel Tree Challenge, and I am proud to say that, as an end result, we were able to give back over \$44,000 to the classrooms that participated. This allowed the teachers to get needed supplies for their classrooms, and taught the kids to learn to work together as a TEAM to accomplish a common goal.

Our Youth Board was at it again having adopted families for Christmas. They shopped, wrapped and delivered gifts to families in our communities. I know I have said it before but the kids on our Youth Board continue to amaze and humble me. They are truly a reflection of what you would want every kid to be! Below is a quote from our highlighted Youth Board member in this newsletter. I think her words show that our mission for the Youth Board has made the impact we've been hoping for.

"My work with the Just for Kids foundation has been more than a collection of projects; it has been a journey of discovering how impactful service can be. These moments have shaped me into a leader who values empathy and action, and they remind me that the simplest contributions can make a profound difference."

Coming up very soon (hard to believe) we will be awarding scholarship to deserving seniors moving on to the next phase of their education. In addition, we will be recognizing our graduating Youth Board members who we will greatly miss, but we truly wish them all the success!

All the things that you see here are only possible because of you and your continued generosity; without you, none of this could ever happen and for that I will be forever grateful!

Thank you for your continuous support and may God continue to Bless you and your families,

Wayne



2024 Tinsel Tree Challenge

Tinsel Tree was another 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 \$44,304 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

Celebrity Judge: Christopher Kustra-Michigan State Trooper

Celebrity Judge: Deshawn Harris-Bay County Deputy Sheriff

Celebrity Judge: Dustin Box-Bay County Deputy Sheriff, Bangor Twp. Schools Resource Officer

Celebrity Judge: Ben Krzyminski-Detective Sergeant, Bay City Public Safety

Celebrity Judge: Kurt Pake-Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Bangor Twp. Schools

2024 GUEST JUDGES



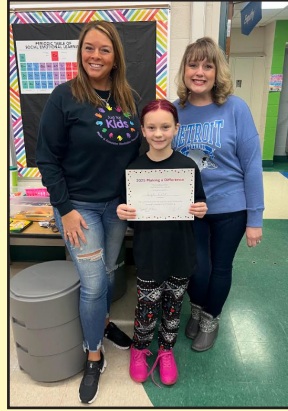
Merry Christmas!

This past Christmas, a former Youth Board member, who is now the director of a Boys & Girls Club, reached out to Just for Kids for help with some Christmas gifts for a few of the families that attend his club. We were happy to help. The Youth Board wasted no time springing into action! They shopped for the families and got all the gifts wrapped in time for Christmas. We are so blessed to have the resources and the willingness of our Youth Board to give back to our community whenever we can!



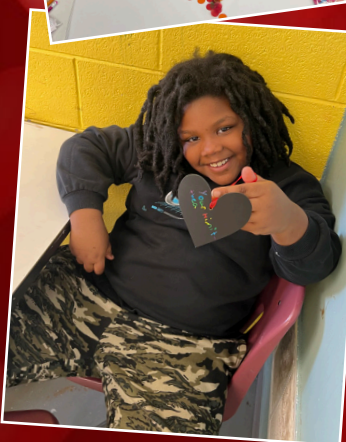
Making A Difference Awards

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!



Happy Valentines Day!

In February, our Youth Board threw their first ever Valentine's Party for the kids at the Boys & Girls Club Saginaw Kids Campus. They played bingo, made crafts, served up some cupcakes and handed out lots of candy. Before the party, the Youth Board stopped off and did a little shopping for some needed items to donate to the club. The boys and girls had a great time interacting with the Youth Board and asked when they'd be coming back!





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: Summer Pomaville **Grade:** 12th **School:** Pinconning High School

How long have you been a member of the Just for Kids youth board? 2 ½ years

What is your favorite project that you have been a part of on the youth board?

My favorite project was building beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Foundation. Knowing that we were providing children with a safe and comfortable place to sleep was incredibly rewarding.

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with the most? I connect most with the mission of helping children and making a direct impact on their lives. It's very fulfilling to see the difference our efforts make in the community.

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board?

My biggest inspiration while being a part of the Just for Kids Youth Board has been Stephanie Maier. She brings such innovative and fun ideas to the table, always finding new ways to enrich the lives of youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Her passion for making a difference is contagious, and she has shown me the power of creativity and dedication in community service. She is great at organizing engaging events, coming up with unique projects, and finding meaningful ways to support kids in need. She leads with heart and vision. Seeing her commitment to helping others has motivated me to push myself further and continue giving back in any way I can.



What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? I hope to continue volunteering and supporting organizations that help children and families in need. Whether it's building beds for kids in need, helping with back-to-school shoe shopping, or organizing fun events like those at the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Halloween event at the Bay City Mall, I want to keep giving back and creating meaningful experiences for others. There's nothing more fulfilling than seeing a smile light up a child's face and knowing that we've made their world a little brighter.

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!