



WORDS from WAYNE

Thanksgiving has just past and Christmas is just around the corner. This is my absolute favorite time of the year because it is a time I like to reflect and then look ahead at what is coming next. And to be honest, I try my best not to get too emotional, but it gets more difficult every year.



Thanksgiving was a real treat for our family. We all got together on Friday to celebrate Thanksgiving. This way our family can go to wherever they usually go on Thanksgiving Day, and I get to watch football until my eyes cross.

The Foundation is now back in full swing and thanks to you and to your continued generosity, we can continue our mission of Making a Difference One Child at a time!

We just finished out annual Tinsel Tree event where we had 65 decorated trees and 10 wreaths representing 24 different schools. It was our most successful event so far. With your help and with the community support, we will be able to give more than \$50,000 back to the classrooms that participated. To see the interaction between the kids and their teachers as they were decorating their trees was truly mind blowing. Beyond that, the majority of our Youth Board (now 35 strong) were at the Tinsel Tree event the day before, helping the kids and their teachers with their Christmas trees. On the actual day of the event, they were working hard interacting with all the kids that were there, playing games, face painting, passing out cookies and milk, just to name a few things!

Every time I get to watch the Youth Board in action I think about how blessed we are as a country. These kids are amazing and when I look at them, I feel that our country will be in great hands!

We are adopting families for Christmas, and we are working together with a local radio station to make sure no kids go without Christmas. And we continue our recognition program by identifying kids caught doing the "right thing". In addition to this, we were honored this past month by the Association for Fundraising Professionals-Mid Michigan Chapter and received an award for the 2025 "Outstanding Foundation"!

None of this could be done without your help. You are the soul of this Foundation and I thank God for your continued support. I know I speak for all of us here and for all the kids that your generosity helps us recognize, Thank You!

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Wayne



2025 Tinsel Tree Challenge

Tinsel Tree was another HUGE success this year! As a reminder, local classrooms in Bay County claim a tree that is donated by our sponsors. The classroom decorates their tree, and the community gets to come and “vote” for a tree by purchasing a \$1 ticket and placing it in the box for that specific tree. At the end of the day, 100% of the 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 \$52,955 which all went back to the classrooms! A big thank you goes out to the 65+ volunteers that help pull this off, as well as our sponsors, local celebrity judges and to Bangor Township Schools for generously allowing us to use their facility!

Presenting Sponsor: Maier & Associates Financial Group, Inc.

Event Sponsor: Prime Brothers Furniture

Event Sponsor: Thumb Bank

Celebrity Judge: Landman & Buykovich, Michigan State Troopers

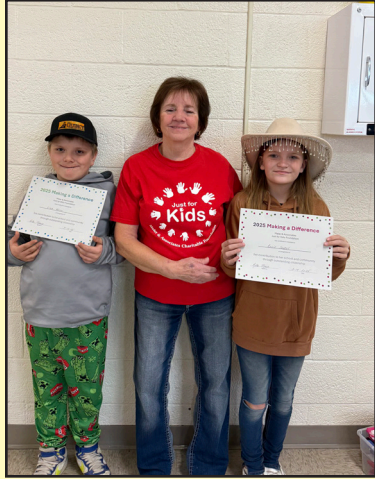
Celebrity Judge: Dustin Box, Bay County Deputy Sheriff,
Bangor Twp. Schools Resource Officer

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



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!



With Gratitude

As the year comes to an end, we feel it is important that our supporters know, that many times, the Maier & Associates Charitable Foundation gets requests that cannot be shared in a newsletter. We are grateful to be able to meet those needs, due to your continued generosity. In 2025, we had the usual requests come our way from local elementary counselors, foster care workers and those working with veterans. The needs for clothing, boots, shoes, jackets etc. is a constant. This year, we had some requests that weren't what we would consider everyday needs.

One of those was a family whose power was shut off and they lost all the food in their refrigerator. When you think of losing everything in your refrigerator, you'll realize that's a lot of staple items that every home has. A school counselor reached out to us, and we were able to replace all those items for this family, and while it may not seem like much, these were items that a family who is struggling, would not be able to replace without sacrifice elsewhere in their budget.

We were able to provide a 3-wheel bike for a special needs child in foster care. Items like that are not made readily available to foster parents who've taken on the challenge of fostering a child with special needs.

We were able to purchase a car battery for another organization who was trying to help a local veteran get his car running so he could get to work. We love partnering with other organizations and being able to help them when their resources may be falling short.

We were able to obtain a bathing suit in the middle of winter, for a student whose school was offering swimming lessons. He had no bathing suit, and it was not in the budget for his family to provide one for him.

Lastly, we were able to provide an ongoing bus pass for a local school-of-choice middle school student whose family could not afford it. The child would wait to be picked up each day, sometimes for over an hour, until a parent was out of work. Something that seems so easily attainable for many, can pose a real challenge for those in need.

None of this would be possible without the generous donations that you, our supporters, provide. You are truly making it possible for us to continue to be a resource to those in our community who are working directly with those in need. They are thankful for us...we are thankful for you.

THANK YOU

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: Chloe Drouse **Grade:** 12th

School: Pinconning 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 that I have done while a part of the youth board is the Tinsel Tree Challenge. I love how, since I have done it 4 years consecutively, I have been able to watch my role grow and develop into a more important one each time. After each year, I find myself becoming more of a leader and taking initiative on more and more tasks. My favorite part was being able to make some of the Christmas cookies for this year's event. I loved seeing kids' reactions to them, it was a very rewarding experience!

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with the most? The best part of the youth board mission is seeing the difference our acts of service make on the community! Whether it's spreading some Christmas cheer, or volunteering for an event at a local Boys and Girls Club, it never fails to be an extremely fulfilling experience that makes me not only a better leader but also a better member of my community!

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board? While being a part of the youth board, there have been numerous people who have inspired me to become a better leader. The person who did that most of all was Stephanie Maier herself. Joining at such a young age, it was incredible to be a part of a team with one of the most incredible women I have ever met. She exemplified an amazing

leader who had both strength and humility. Watching her facilitate so many incredible community events while still getting to know her on a personal level was revolutionary and it inspired me to follow in her footsteps and continue to build my leadership skills moving forward post high school. We left a mark every time we volunteered, and being able to see how much she and the board positively impacted the community inspired me to my core. I could have never asked for a better role model, because she has had a profound impact on not only my professional growth, but my personal growth as well. And for that I could never thank her enough!

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? Moving forward, I hope to continue volunteering in my community, and wherever my college education places me in the world, I hope that I can find a group where I can be myself and yet still collaborate with a team. Stephanie Maier, and the Just for Kids Youth Board, have prepared me for my future, and I hope to continue the mission wherever I go by being the leader they have shaped me to be!

Name: Emma Dabrowski

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 that we have done so far is Tinsel Tree. The atmosphere is always so much fun and it's awesome to see teachers receive funds for their classrooms to support students' needs.

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with? The part of the youth board mission I connect with the most is the service to our community. Being able to help people within our community is one of the reasons I joined the youth board.

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board? My biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board is seeing how much we truly impact people's lives. From bike giveaways to shoe shopping, it is empowering to see how we can help our community grow and thrive.

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? One thing we do on the youth board that I would like to continue in my future is the Christmas shopping for the Boys and Girls Club. It brings me joy being able to find gifts for different kids and make their holiday special.



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!