

WORDS

from

WAYNE



So, here we are, spring is just around the corner (I hope)! This is my favorite time of the year. It is a time for **New Beginnings**; everything seems fresh and new. What's not to love?

The winter has been a long one, and with that long winter has come lots of requests for warm clothing, coats, hats, boots, shoes and more, for kids in our area. Thanks to you, we were able to fill every single need, and for that I thank all of you for the kids you helped by your continued generosity.

Over the winter our Youth Board was pretty active working to recognize kids "doing the right things"; went to the Boys and Girls Club in Pinconning and handed out Christmas gifts; shopped for upcoming Easter celebrations for kids; visited the Smith Family Food Pantry in Bay City and helped with re-organization and handing out food to families in need; spent time helping out at the Women's Shelter for Domestic Violence in Bay City; created and participated in the "Lucky to Be You" event with the kids at the Saginaw Boys and Girls Club, just to name a few.

There are lots of activities planned for the spring. We have started our bike drops, which provides bikes to kids who the school staff and administration have chosen to receive this award. The kids receiving the bikes were nominated because of their kindness to classmates, and their overall general "Doing the right thing" activities, regardless of their circumstances. We will continue recognizing elementary school kids who show great citizenship. We'll also be providing scholarships to high school seniors who are moving on to college and trade schools.

I want you to know all the good that your generosity is allowing us to accomplish. So many kids are better off today because of you. And our Youth Board continues to accomplish so much, thanks to you! You are a true inspiration to all involved in this Foundation, but especially to me, and I thank God every day for you and your support!

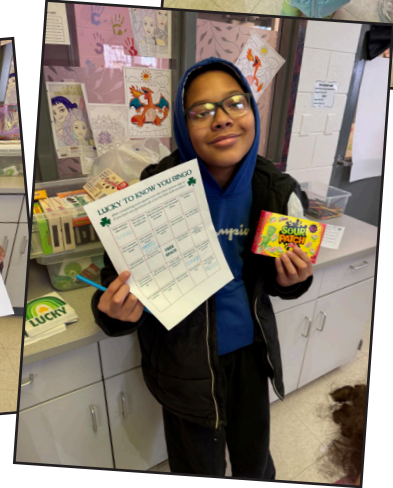
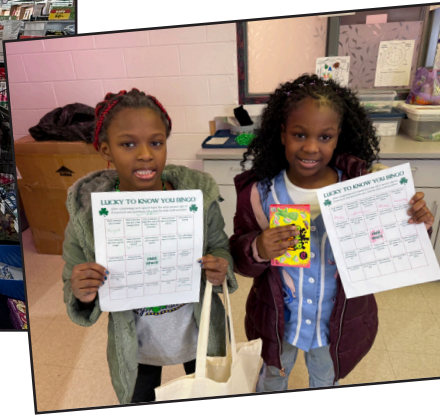
May God continue to bless you and your families,

Wayne



Lucky to Be You

The Just for Kids Youth Board had a great time hosting the “Lucky to be You” St. Patrick’s Day event at the Boys & Girls Club of Saginaw. They played bingo, made self-care tote bags and created crafts with the kids. Before the event, the youth board shopped for supplies to donate to the club, things like arts & craft supplies, fidget toys and cleaning supplies. Fun events like this remind us how “lucky” we are to give back to our community.



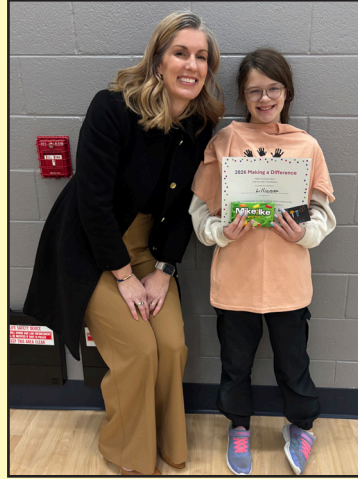
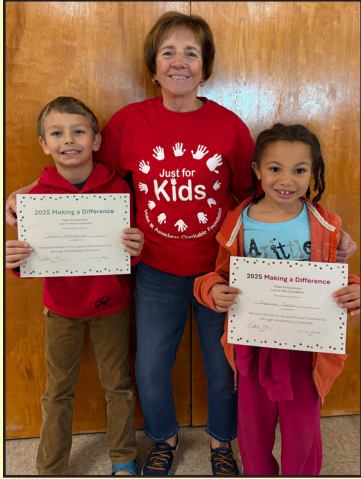
Visit to the Bay Area Women’s Center

It’s always an eye-opening experience for our Just for Kids youth board at the Bay Area Women’s Center. Our youth board learns how abuse impacts individuals and families in many ways. Just for Kids is proud to support such an important community resource by purchasing items and donating them along with Valentine’s Day gift bags for the kids who are currently living at the center. Days like this are reminders that when we come together as a community, we can truly make a difference.



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!



Thanks to your continued generosity we can offer support to veterans in our local community. These past couple months we provided large food donations to Aaron's Gifts from Home in Midland, as well as the Food Pantry at the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Saginaw. We also received a donation of about 100 McDonald's coupons for free meals, which we in turn, donated to "I Support the 1%" Veteran Food Pantry in Frankenmuth.



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: Alli Caldwell **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 has been shoe shopping with the Boys and Girls Club. This experience was especially meaningful to me because it gave me the opportunity to directly help younger kids in a way that made them feel confident and supported. Seeing their excitement and gratitude reminded me how important even small acts of kindness can be. It made me feel proud to be part of something that creates real impact in people's lives.

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with? I connect most with the mission of helping youth in the community and becoming more involved. I believe it is important to give back and support others, especially younger students who may need encouragement or resources. Being part of the youth board has shown me how powerful it is when people come together to make a difference, and it has inspired me to stay involved in my community long-term.

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board? My biggest inspiration has been Olivia L., a past member of Just for Kids. I admire how involved she was not only in the organization but also at school. She balanced everything while still being kind, supportive, and successful. Seeing her example showed me what it looks like to be a strong leader and a positive role model, and it motivates me to continue pushing myself and helping others.

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? One thing I definitely want to continue is helping local youth in my community. As I plan to become a special education teacher, I know that the experiences I've had with the youth board will stay with me. I want to continue supporting students, building relationships, and making sure every child feels valued and included. Being part of Just for Kids has helped shape my passion for working with children and making a difference in their lives.



Name: Grace Ballard **Grade:** 12th **School:** Pinconning High School

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

What is your favorite project that you have been a part of on the youth board? My favorite project has been volunteering at the Bay County Women's Shelter. It was a great opportunity to see what resources are available in my community. It made me realize how important it is to help others in any way you can.

What part of the youth board mission do you connect with? I connect most with giving back and helping others. I've always liked being involved and helping where I can. It's great to meet the people that Just for Kids helps!

Who/What has been your biggest inspiration while being a part of the youth board? The people I've worked with have been my biggest inspiration. Everyone is so passionate about helping others! It has definitely pushed me to do more.

What is something you do with the youth board that you wish to continue in your future? I definitely want to keep helping people and staying involved in my community. No matter what I do in the future, I want to keep making a difference!



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!