

Okemos Alumni Association  
Nominating Kerry J. Byrnes, Okemos Class of 1963  
for the Distinguished Alumni Award  
an Award of the Okemos Education Foundation

“The Alumni Award honors an alumnus of Okemos Public Schools who demonstrates exceptional dedication, achievement and humanitarian contributions. Additionally, it honors alumni who have pursued a passion and made a significant contribution to their field of study.”

--Okemos Education Foundation

Dr. Byrnes is a highly accomplished alumnus with a renaissance of interests. He was an Eagle Scout and East Lansing mayor for a day. In high school, his interests and achievements were focused on English, Spanish and American Government having been most inspired by the remarkable teacher, Dale Brubaker. Brubaker continued to be an inspiration until his death in 2016, encouraging Kerry to write “Giants in Their Realm”, an autobiographical account of Kerry’s experiences with world figures, leaders and personalities he encountered through his work and outside interests.

Kerry went from Okemos grad to Iowa State Ph.D. and a career supervisor for USAID. There, he studied, trained and developed 170 agricultural and rural projects, that included farming operations and complete market trade systems in 37 countries. A lifelong career of international travel, always trying to make this world a better place, especially for those who yet live in poverty in the developing world. Kerry received many honors for his work accomplishments as an analyst, supervisor and advisor. Awards such as “USDA Hurricane Reconstruction Plan”, “FAS Hurricane Recovery Team”, “USAID Meritorious Service, Meritorious Unit-Trade”, ”CAFTA Trade Negotiations”, GS-15 (the highest level in the Federal Civil Service) and upon retirement in September 2014, the USAID 2<sup>nd</sup> highest recognition, “Outstanding Career Achievement Award”.

The legacy and impact of Kerry’s USAID career was best summed up by John Thomas, a colleague and Development Officer: “Dr. Byrnes is among the most respected and knowledgeable persons I turn to for information and advice on agriculture and food security programming. He is especially strong in agriculture policy and trade matters. He provides balanced and clear analysis on the impact of policy and trade decisions on production, job creation, income growth and poverty reduction in developing country agriculture and regional economies.”

After earning his M.A. in 1968 from MSU, Kerry was hired by the MSU Economics Department to work on the Colombia Agricultural Marketing Research project where his findings were

incorporated into the final report. That project turned around the poorly underdeveloped subsistence ag system of Cali, Colombia into a thriving modern supermarket/hypermarket in a now developing country. Cali's retail food system is today the most successful producer/supplier/food retailer system in Colombia. And a reputation that would follow him throughout his career in Rural International Development. At retirement in 2014, Dr. Byrnes donated all his professional papers to the Agricultural Communication Documentation Center at the University of Illinois.

In between the M.A. and Ph.D. he was a VISTA volunteer for a year-and-a-half, working as a teacher's assistant in a Miami Head Start program and by night teaching English to the community speaking Spanish and Creole.

Kerry's passion for hard work and study went in many directions. He is a member of the Society for the Preservation for Film Music. As such, he has amassed nearly 2,000 film music soundtrack LP's and 2,100 CD's. The collection so complete that he recently donated the CD's to the MSU College of Music to support developing instructional curricula on film music composition. Since 1990, he has published several magazine articles about film music, including, "Martin Denny", "Scoring 'Spaghetti'", "Mr. Cook-the still-controversial film music critic".

As an early member of the Okemos Alumni Association, we invited Kerry to submit a memoir of his career and interests...we have now posted three books, with the latest revision of *Giants in Their Realms...* now up to 1,200 pages! He is currently working on a book-length chronicle of "The Chieftain Twelve" – the twelve Okemos High School basketball players who, after high school, played basketball for Michigan State University.

Kerry Byrnes from the class of 1963, shows exceptional dedication, high achievement, and always humanitarian contributions. An alumnus with great passion for making a significant contribution to every field of study he pursues. Truly, a distinguished alumnus.

On behalf of the Okemos Alumni Association, with unanimous consent,

Rodney D. Ellis, Class of 1965, Okemos Alumni Association President August 16, 2018

"Whatever impact Okemos had on him, Kerry has gone into the world and done good (not well, but good, which is better by far.) In terms of why we do these awards at all, I think it is important not to be too impressed with whiz-bang science stuff as opposed to the conscious application of effort and intelligence to improve the collective good. Kerry passes."

--OAA Board Member, David Winters '65

"Working behind the scenes and often in obscurity, Kerry is an Okemos gift to the world. From Eagle Scout to VISTA Volunteer to relief of poverty on a global scale, Kerry has positively

impacted the lives of millions. His touching tribute to his H.S. Teacher and his chronicle of Okemos basketball players, will immortalize others...the OHS Alumni seek the same honor for the author.”

--OAA Board Member, Rod Ellis '65





SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AT ALL LEVELS OF  
THE OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[WWW.OEFSITE.ORG](http://WWW.OEFSITE.ORG)



OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2019  
**AWARDS**  
BANQUET

November 21, 2019 • Kellogg Center, East Lansing





## A Message from the OEF Chair

---



Welcome to the 23rd annual Okemos Education Foundation Awards Banquet!

Tonight we are excited to once again celebrate the excellence that is Okemos by honoring educators, staff and alumni for their notable service to Okemos Public Schools. The nine people we honor tonight have contributed in many ways to significantly impact our students and school community through their work at all levels, K-12, as well as in both the general education and special education arena.

While we recognize nine individuals tonight, this evening also provides us an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding contributions of ALL those who work and/or provide support in the Okemos schools. As our Okemos Public School's mission statement says it is "Together, that we educate with excellence and inspire learners for life".

A main focus of the OEF is to provide grants as well as other opportunities that enhance students' learning through excellence and innovation. Each year we give out upwards of \$50,000 to support this mission. With my fellow foundation members we strive to work in partnership with parents, Okemos staff, community members and businesses to be an integral part of maintaining this standard of excellence in our schools.

Thank you to everyone who is able to join us this evening. This event allows us to recognize and appreciate the contributions of all who value education and contribute to its excellence and to take pride in what we do. Also, a special thanks to all of those who made this evening possible including the many businesses who have donated in support of tonight's banquet.

We hope you enjoy the evening as we celebrate and take pride in the amazing staff and district we know as Okemos Public Schools.

### **Sue Hallman**

Co Chair, Okemos Education Foundation

## Awards Program

---

**SOCIAL HOUR - 5:30 P.M.**

**DINNER - 6:30 P.M.**

### **WELCOME**

Sue Hallman, OEF Co Chair

### **TONIGHT'S MENU:**

#### **Herb Crusted Chicken Breast**

Herb Chicken Breast with a Parmesan Cream Sauce served with Sundried Tomatoes, Wild Mushrooms, Italian herbs, and Risotto

#### **Ghanta Tarkari**

Butternut Squash, Potatoes, Zucchini, Cucumber, and Coconut Curry GF/VG

#### **Child Meal - Chicken Tenders**

#### **Crisp Caesar Salad**

Romaine Hearts, Shaved Parmesan-Reggiano, and Garlic Croutons

#### **Dessert**

Strawberry Shortcake with Chantilly Cream or Chocolate Mousse Cake - with Salted Caramel Sauce

### **2019 AWARDS PROGRAM - 7:30 P.M.**

Matt Ottinger, Master of Ceremonies

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Tena Sinila & Donna Kregelka  
Okemos Students

#### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD**

Walter N. Schreiner - Class of 1959

#### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

Kathy Martin

and

*Parapro Team at Central*

Shawn Donaldson, Mariann Frank, June Hicks

#### **COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Dorean Brazier, Nita Carpenter, Lindsay Harrod, Jon Hughey



## Keynote Speakers

---

### Teacher Excellence from the Perspective of Students

Tena Sinila and Donna Kregelka, both OEF trustees as well as recipients of the Commitment to Excellence Award, are honored to present current and former students who will share their perspectives on what makes an excellent teacher.

Tena, a fourth grade teacher at Cornell Elementary School has been a part of the Okemos Public Schools' staff for 24 years. Donna, currently a Social Studies eighth grade teacher has been teaching in the middle school program with Okemos for 35 years. Implementing the OPS mission statement: *Together...Educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life*, is something they strive for everyday. They are both happy to present these 'experts on excellence'.

**Charlotte Gebara** - 2nd grade Cornell

**Autumn Godette** - 4th grade Cornell

**Jackson Becket** - 6th grade Kinawa

**Komal Patel** - 8th grade Chippewa

**Cassie Thatcher** - 10th grade OHS

**Katie McKenna** - 4th grade student of Tena Sinila, graduate of Okemos and current teacher at Cornell

## About the Awards

---

### DEAN BOLTON VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Dean Bolton Volunteer Service Award honors an individual who has had a significant positive impact on students, staff, and the school community through his/her extraordinary volunteer service.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors a graduate of Okemos Public Schools who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement as well as humanitarian contributions.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Special Recognition Award is presented to support staff in the district who demonstrate a passion for excellence and whose contributions elevate our schools.

### COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

The OEF's Commitment to Excellence Award recognizes the exceptional and notable service of educational professionals in the Okemos Public School District.

Each recipient distinguished him or herself in one of the following areas:

- Inspiring and motivating students
- Promoting the welfare of students
- Providing leadership within the school community
- Implementing innovative and creative ideas

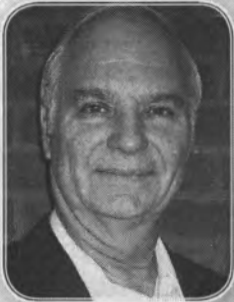
**The OEF has bestowed a total of 257 awards since we began recognizing excellence through these formal awards 23 years ago.**

142 Commitment to Excellence Awards  
42 Special Recognition Awards  
12 Dean Bolton Volunteer Service Awards  
10+ Distinguished Alumni Awards



## Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

---



**WALTER N. SCHREINER**  
CLASS OF 1959

After graduating from Okemos High School in 1959, Dr. Schreiner spent over 2 years in the Peace Corps, teaching physics and math in Chile. In 1973, he earned a PhD in high energy physics from Virginia Polytech & State University. This was followed by a post-doctoral at Brookhaven National Lab for two years. From 1975 to 2005,

he was employed by Philips Electronics Research, where he did R&D for x-ray analytical physics. At the same time, he owned and operated a private x-ray diffraction analytical laboratory for about 20 years and taught x-ray diffraction classes. That led to management consulting, business process re-engineering, and eventually to solving and teaching how to apply statistical engineering methods to solve chronic manufacturing problems worldwide.

Dr. Schreiner traveled all over North America, Europe and Asia, to apply his expertise and to teach. After "retiring," he set up his own consulting company, CP Solutions. There he solved chronic manufacturing problems in medical instruments and prosthetic components, lighting, electronic components, displays, domestic appliances, electronic assembly, semiconductors, plastics, fuel cells, wax and contact lens manufacturing. Since 2010 he has been volunteering with the Fuller Center, to help build houses for those in need.

## Special Recognition Award Recipient

---



**MARIANN FRANK**  
*Okemos Public Schools*

Mariann Frank is a parapro in the upper elementary self contained ASD classroom at Central. This is her third year with Okemos Public Schools and in the ASD room. Mariann received her Liberal Arts degree from Oakland Community College. She also has behavioral training from a board certified behavior analyst.

When not in the classroom Mariann enjoys spending time with her family; husband, Steve, daughters, Peyton and Delany, and sons, Connor and Dalton. She also loves going on adventures, hiking, kayaking, golfing and Monday night Bingo.

Speaking of her classroom experience Mariann says, "Working with Abby Showerman and the incredible team has opened my eyes to love and embrace the children we work with. I am so proud to work with a team that jumps into action."



## Special Recognition Award Recipients

---



**JUNE HICKS**

*Central Elementary School*

June Hicks is currently the Administrative Assistant for Operations. Prior to that she worked in the ASD basic classroom at Central as a parapro. She has been with Okemos for four years.

June is a Wisconsin Badger, earning her Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology/Natural Science. She volunteers with Harris Nature Center, enjoys biking, reading, knitting, and spending time with her family, dogs and bird!

Her family includes husband Scottt, daughter Anna a sophomore at OHS, son Edward a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

---



**SHAWN DONALDSON**

*Kinawa Middle School*

Shawn Donaldson is a parapro with the ASD program in Okemos. He currently works at Kinawa in the ASD basic classroom moving 'up' with students he worked within the elementary ASD program at Central for the last two years. Previously Shawn worked as a before and after care taker in Okemos.

He received his undergraduate degree from MSU and is currently working on his Masters through Ball State University.

## Special Recognition Award Recipient

---



**KATHY MARTIN**

*Okemos Public Schools*

Kathy Martin has worked in Okemos for almost 19 years as a parapro, working at all levels in all buildings.

She is very blessed with family and friends including her husband Steve, daughter, Brittney, a 2010 Okemos graduate, and as she says 'too many fur babies'! She enjoys refinishing furniture, baking, making crafts and knows sign language.

Reflecting on her time in Okemos Kathy notes, "I have had hard placements as well as wonderful placements but I have always tried to make the best of it. I have made some wonderful friends throughout the years. I have always been thankful for my job and the many things I have experienced."



## Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

---



### **LINDSAY HARROD**

*Okemos High School*

Lindsay Harrod received her undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University with a major in Family and Consumer Science and a minor in Health Education. She received her Master's degree in Educational Technology from Marygrove College.

This is Lindsay's 11th year with Okemos Public Schools. In addition to being a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher Lindsay is/has been a student council advisor, connect freshman orientation co-advisor, yearbook advisor and freshman class advisor.

In her free time Lindsay enjoys spending time with family, which includes her husband Brian, her 3 sons, Brogan, Hudson and Brooks, as well as her mother, Joyce, father, Bill and brother, Patrick. Lindsay also loves being outside taking walks, riding bikes, boating and vacationing. She enjoys crafting, planning activities and events, decorating and home projects.

When asked about her job and Okemos Lindsay says, "I am very lucky that I can wake up and go to work loving my job everyday. I have always been passionate about teaching and learning and have wanted to be a teacher since I was very young. I take great pride in what I do every day and love to build relationships with students. Okemos is a wonderful place to work. It has provided me with many opportunities that have given me ways to be involved with students and parents. The support and friendships I have made here are something to be treasured."

Thank you Lindsay for your passion and congratulations on your award!

## Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

---



### **NITA CARPENTER**

*Okemos High School*

Nita Carpenter has been a part of the Okemos Public School family for 29 years as a high school math teacher. Since 2011 she has been the Math department chair. She graduated from Spring Arbor College (now Spring Arbor University) with her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. Nita then attended Michigan State University where she received her Masters in

Curriculum and Teaching. In addition, she has taken many other courses relating to best classroom practices.

Nita enjoys spending free time with her family, husband, David, and their three sons, Joel, Kelden and Gabe. In addition to her family, she loves golf, walking the dog, playing recreational volleyball, playing word games and spending time with friends.

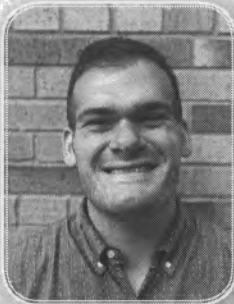
About Okemos, Nita says, "I have truly enjoyed teaching at Okemos High School for my entire teaching career thus far. As with any profession, there are always going to be highs and lows, good times and tough times. However, the overwhelming majority of my experience with students, parents, administrators and colleagues has been positive and supportive thus far and for that I am truly grateful."

Thank you Nita for all you do and congratulations on your award!



## Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

---



**JONATHAN HUGHEY**

*Cornell Elementary School*

Jon Hughey is currently in his 5th year teaching third grade at Cornell Elementary School. He recently completed his Master's in Educational Administration from Michigan State University where he also received his Bachelor of Arts in elementary education.

Jon is excited to be a new dad, daughter Ellie will be 4 months when Jon receives his award. His wife, Molly, also teaches at Cornell Elementary. In addition, Jon's family includes mom, Sue, dad, Ron and four brothers and sisters, Jessie, Jim, Jacob and Jenny.

When not spending time with his family, Jon enjoys watching sports, playing golf, spending time outside and being with friends.

When asked about Okemos Jon replied. "I love working in Okemos. The teachers are appreciated and treated as professionals, there is a great amount of diversity in the student population, I have made great friends with my colleagues at Cornell and I appreciate all of them. I am lucky to be teaching in this district."

We are lucky to have you as a part of the Okemos Public School family. Congratulations Jon!

## Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

---



**DOREAN BRAZIER**

*Okemos Public School Staff*

Dorean Brazier is an educator who lives the value of learning. She received her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in Special Education/Emotionally Impaired. She continued with a Master's degree in Special Education/Learning Disabled. Dorean has additional certifications as a Certified Teacher of Dyslexics, a Project Read Trainer and a Reading Specialist. Dorean considered applying for her Ph.D. but

chose to make her newborn son her Ph.D.!

Dorean is a long time member of Okemos Public Schools staff at both the elementary and high school level, all as a special education teacher or consultant. She has been at Central, Edgewood, Wardcliff and Cornell. Currently she is at Okemos High School where she has worked for the past 18 years.

Dorean's family includes Dr. James Brazier, a retired political science professor and current corrections officer. Her Ph.D. project, Dr. Brett Brazier, is a Captain in the Air Force in San Antonio, Texas and is in his 1st year of orthopedic surgery residency.

In her free time Dorean enjoys skiing - water and snow, travelling, reading, playing tennis and golf. Dorean is also a former competitive figure skater and coach.

Thinking about her time in Okemos Dorean notes that it has been "a challenging, exhilarating experience, a place where she has become a lifelong learner and learned to forgive herself when a mistake was made and to forgive others when she was misunderstood. Okemos has been a family experience with tons of support. She gives a huge "Thank you" to all administrators, classroom teachers, special educators, specialists, parents and students who helped her and enriched her life. For Dorean, retirement will not be a day of celebration, rather a sad day for her."



## Business Partners In Education

---

The Okemos Education Foundation is grateful to the following businesses for sponsoring tonight's banquet.

### Platinum Sponsors

Horizon Bank  
Granger

### Gold Sponsors

Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes  
PLC  
Heat'n sweep  
Great Lakes Hand Surgery  
Dr. Shah DDS  
Okemos Village (Will Randle)  
Elevation

### Silver Sponsors

Okemos Alumni Club  
Thrun Law Firm  
Comcast  
BHHS Tomie Raines Realtors  
Meridian Mall

### Bronze Sponsors

Harkness Law Firm  
Kellie's Consignment  
Okemos Auto Collection  
Independent Bank  
Desk Drawer Fund/MSUFCU  
Graff Chevrolet  
Coldwell Banker  
Douglas J

### Copper Sponsors

Joseph Dunn  
Christine Tenaglia DDS

*Please support the OEF's  
Business Partners in Education  
to let them know you appreciate their support  
of Okemos students.*

*Treat Yourself!*

**FREE  
BOTANICAL THERAPY  
TREATMENT**

with any paid hair service

douglas j  
salon • spa

4663 Ardmore Ave | Okemos, Michigan 48864  
517-349-0430 | douglasj.com

Expires March 31, 2020 Code: DEFBotan





Supporting Okemos Education Foundation

# CREATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS avani-design

SPECIALIZING IN VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION PROJECTS

Print • Web • Branding

For more information contact:  
Smita Sawai  
smitasawai@gmail.com • 517.303.9566  
www.avani-design.com



**VOTED**  
**#1 IN** 

We owe it all to  
**OUR CUSTOMERS.**



**INDEPENDENT**

BANK  
Member FDIC

Visit your local branch to learn why  
Okemos | 517.381.0817 | 2119 Hamilton Rd.  
[IndependentBank.com/forbes2019](http://IndependentBank.com/forbes2019)

The Desk Drawer Fund  
is proud to support  
the Okemos Education  
Foundation and the  
2019 award recipients



[deskdrawerfund.org](http://deskdrawerfund.org) | 517-333-2299



DESK DRAWER FUND  
A Foundation Supporting the MSDFCT and  
OU Credit Union Communities



---

# THE OKEMOS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

honors

Walter N. Schreiner

Class of 1959

2019 OEF Distinguished Alumni

Award Recipient



**OKEMOS ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**  
OkemosAlumni.org

**ELEVATION • OKEMOS**  
**Live Elevated**

**STATE-OF-THE-ART  
RESIDENCES IDEALLY  
SITUATED IN OKEMOS**

With its distinctive design and an array of amenities, Elevation's superior luxuries are found indoors and out. Whether you seek the excitement of the outdoors, nearby culinary delights or the comforts of home, you'll find your ideal lifestyle here.

With residences ranging in size from studios to generous three-bedroom layouts, Elevation offers the perfect space for every lifestyle.

**ELEVATION**  
OKEMOS  
MI

2398 Jolly Rd • Ste 300  
Okemos • MI 48864  
t: (517) 708-8126  
e: live@elevationokemos.com

**ELEVATIONOKEMOS.COM**



**With Best Wishes to  
Okemos Education Foundation**

**Hina Shah, DDS**

Family Dentistry  
3955 Okemos Rd, Ste.  
B3, Okemos, MI 48864  
517.381.9941  
h.shah@hotmail.com

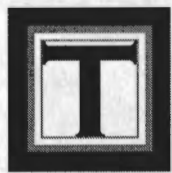
A black and white photograph of a Granger waste truck parked on a street. The truck is a large, modern vehicle with a large rear compartment. In the foreground, a black trash bin is visible. The background shows trees and a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the Granger logo and text.

  
**GRANGER.**  
WASTE SERVICES

[www.grangernet.com](http://www.grangernet.com)

GRANGER  
1-800-GRANGER • 517-772-2800  
WWW.GRANGERNET.COM





# THRUN

LAW FIRM, P.C.

Setting the standard for legal representation of Michigan's educational institutions since 1946

Katherine Wolf Broaddus  
Philip G. Clark  
Raymond M. Davis  
Robert A. Dietzel  
Michele R. Eaddy  
Michael B. Farrell  
Timothy T. Gardner Jr.  
Michael D. Gresens  
Margaret M. Hackett  
Kevin S. Harty  
Fredric G. Heidemann  
Roy H. Henley  
Kirk C. Herald  
Matthew F. Hiser  
Robert G. Huber  
Christopher J. Iamarino  
Martha J. Marcero  
Daniel R. Martin  
Piotr M. Matusiak

Ryan J. Nicholson  
Cristina T. Patzelt  
Kari K. Shay  
Jeffrey J. Soles  
Jennifer K. Starlin  
Lisa L. Swem  
Gordon W. VanWieren Jr.



**NOVI**  
39555 Orchard Hill Place  
Suite 430  
(248) 533-0741

**EAST LANSING**  
2900 West Road  
Suite 400  
(517) 484-8000

**GRAND RAPIDS**  
3260 Eagle Park Drive, NE  
Suite 121  
(616) 588-7700

ThrunLaw.com

**Graff Okemos Chevy & The Okemos Education Foundation**

**PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE**

**GraffOkemos.com**

1748 W. Grand River Ave.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-8300

*We Love to support*

**OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**OKEMOS AUTO COLLECTION**

*"Love What You Drive."*

2186 Jolly Rd. Okemos  
517-853-2600  
www.okemosautocollection.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE 2019  
OKEMOS EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
AWARDS RECIPIENTS

We appreciate your commitment to  
our children.



WILLIAM R. TRULUCK, II, DO  
OKEMOS PARENT

517 908-3360  
GREATLAKESHANDSURGERYCENTER.COM

# Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

EXPERT COUNSEL



REAL SOLUTIONS

MUNICIPAL LAW + DRAIN LAW + LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

ENERGY LAW + BUSINESS LAW + FRANCHISING

LIQUOR LICENSING + LITIGATION + [FSBRLAW.COM](http://FSBRLAW.COM)





## Internet Essentials from Comcast Affordable, High-Speed Internet

The Internet belongs in the home. It has the power to connect individuals to a world of knowledge and opportunities, including greater access to education, healthcare, employment, news, and information.

Internet Essentials from Comcast brings affordable, high-speed Internet home for **\$9.95 per month plus tax**. You may qualify if you are eligible for public assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others.

Since the program's launch in 2011, Internet Essentials has helped **8 million Americans** get connected. And we couldn't do it without our amazing partner organizations. Together we can bring the Internet home to even more individuals across the country and help transform even more lives.

Visit [InternetEssentials.com/Partner](http://InternetEssentials.com/Partner) to learn more.

**internet»  
essentials**  
FROM COMCAST

# The Sign of Trust.



When the most respected brand in the world,  
Berkshire Hathaway, puts its name on a  
real estate sign, that's a good sign for the  
market and a great sign for you.

Find experienced, knowledgeable  
sales professionals at [tomieraines.com](http://tomieraines.com).



## THE HARKNESS LAW FIRM, PLLC

**CULLEN C. HARKNESS**  
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR

4121 Okemos Rd Ste 17  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 381-2461

[cullen@harknesslawpllc.com](mailto:cullen@harknesslawpllc.com)  
[www.harknesslawpllc.com](http://www.harknesslawpllc.com)

Joseph Dunn  
2985 Mount Hope Rd, Ste 111  
Okemos, MI, 48864  
Call: (517) 853-8400  
[JosephDunn@allstate.com](mailto:JosephDunn@allstate.com)

**The Joseph Dunn Okemos  
Allstate Agency supports the  
Okemos Education Foundation.**



# Heat'n Sweep

Making Living Better



[HeatnSweep.com](http://HeatnSweep.com)

Monday thru Friday 10-7  
Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 12-4



2041 W. Grand River • Okemos, MI 48864 • 517-349-2555

## SPA - FIREPLACE - PATIO



Let US go to Work for you

## Okemos Education Foundation

Congratulations on another  
successful year!

### The Lynne VanDeventer Team

#### About "The VanDeventer Team"

- Number #1 Team in the Tri County Area
- Number #1 Team of Three Agents In Michigan
- Sold Over 225 Million in sales last three years
- Members of Greater Lansing Board and Shiawasee

#### Benefits

- Buyer Network
- Relocation
- High Quality Marketing

**Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood**  
**The VanDeventer Team**  
**Lynne, Diadre & Tomas**

517-492-3274

517-349-4406

lynnevanda@coldwellbanker.com

www.lynnevandeventer.com

LIKE US on FACEBOOK



SHOP • CONSIGN • ESTATE SALES

**Thank you teachers!**  
**Enjoy \$10 on us!**



# MERIDIAN MALL

# Congratulations

**OKEMOS EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

2019 Award Recipients





The Okemos  
Education Foundation  
thanks Horizon Bank  
for their support of  
the annual Elementary  
Author Visit program

---

---



**OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
greatly appreciates the following  
sponsors for their contribution to  
2019 Awards Recipients

**Will Randle (Okemos Village)  
Christine Tenaglia, DDS  
and  
Coldwell Banker**



**HELP THE OEF SUPPORT MORE  
INNOVATIVE PROJECTS LIKE THIS  
BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TODAY.**



*Exploring Michigan native snakes at Kinawa*



*Teaching music history with ukuleles at Kinawa*



*Learning about plant life with a tower garden at Chippewa*



*Partnered with Klnawa Parent Group to provide materials for CPR class*



*Electrophysiology at OHS*



*Exploring owl pellets - OPM at Central*





# 2018-2019 OEF DONORS

(7/1/18 through 6/30/19)

The Okemos Education Foundation relies on financial donations in order to fulfill its mission. Thank you to our 2018-2019 Donors in Education for supporting Okemos students!

## Platinum Donors (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

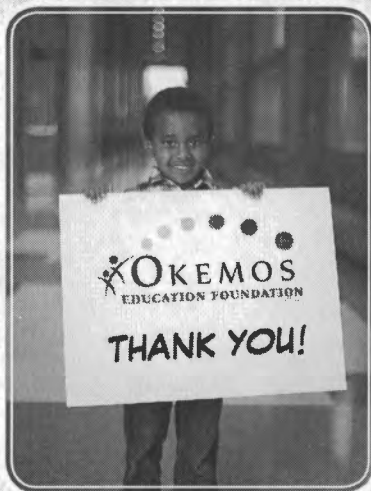
Granger Waste Services  
Horizon Bank  
Scott & Alba Ried

## Gold Donors (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

B. Borsuk  
Chuck & Karen Canestraight  
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC  
Great Lakes Hand Surgery Center  
Dave & Rashi Gupta  
Heat 'n Sweep  
Tomas & Laurie Hult  
Don & Ruth Keck  
Mid-Michigan Oral Surgery  
Minesh & Hina Mody  
Okemos Alumni  
Will & Jamie Randle  
Steve & Kristin Schoen  
Urvish & Hina Shah  
JoAnne & Subhash Sorlie

## Silver Donors (\$500-\$999)

Cathy Ash  
Jim & Kathryn Ault  
Scott & Patricia Barron  
Michael & Deb Baughman  
Jack Behar  
Kathy Birchen  
Sabine Blaxton  
Chris Hogan Brynn  
Lee & Mary Colony  
Lisa Crites  
Steve & Giria Delp  
Wanda M. Derochowski  
Joel C Eddy  
Leonid & Alina Gorelik  
Andrew & Erin Hagman  
Sue Hallman  
Xuefei Huang  
Irem & Tunga Kiyak  
John & Kathryn Lanzetta  
Cheri Meier



Samir & Smruti Parikh  
Heather Pricco  
Dan & Christine Sermak  
Michael & Amy Stephenson  
Ron & Georgina Styka  
Cathrine Tan  
Gordon VanWieren Thrun Law  
Patricia Trelstad  
Peter & Sherry Trezise  
Tiffany Wey

## Copper Donors (\$250 - \$499)

Bruce K Alexander  
Nakia White Barr  
Dean & Helen Bolton  
Briarwood Realty  
Chris & Martha Buck  
Amy Cavanaugh  
Mary Davidson  
Tara L. Fry  
Bin Gao  
Lee & Linda Gerard  
Thomas Glasmacher  
Graff Chevrolet-Okemos  
Patricia Hammerschmidt  
Harkness  
John & Kristen Hood

Susan Scheff Hopper  
Jeffrey & Michelle Korb  
Peter & Susan Long  
Christopher & Krista Loose  
F. Michael & Gwendoline Maisch  
Martha and Simon & Martha Marcero  
Emily MSU Federal  
Stephen Okemos Auto Collection  
Christian & Noelle Palasty  
Bruce & Rita Peffers  
Bidhan & Prasanna Redey  
Richard Schwendeman  
Gordon & Jane Spink  
Steve & Kristyn Stierley  
Jeff & Pat Stuckey  
Stuart & Antoinette Tessmer  
Tomie Raines, Inc.  
Pratin & Pratiksha Trivedi  
Janet Velicer  
Dan & Linda Wertz  
Jeremy & Angela Wilson  
Marna Wilson  
Sarah & Justus Wohlford  
Peng & Hui Zhang

## Friends (\$50-\$249)

Corinne Acres  
Jane Andros  
Joseph & Beth Bonsall  
John & Susie Brewster  
David Brower  
Murray & Elaine Brown  
Jacqueline Browne  
Dave Bueche  
Martin J. Bukovac  
Mark & Kim Burzych  
Debra Chamberlain  
Kathleen Tamara-Luchini Colbry  
Careena Eggleston  
Jerry & Suzanne Gieszer  
David & Debra Gift  
Kay A Granskog  
Merdis Harris  
Margaret Haynes  
Larry & Mary Hennessy  
David & Iris Horner  
Tyler & Christine Hursey  
Dan & Barb Ilgen  
Joe Dunn  
Kathryn Sheufelt  
Paul & Anne-Marie Kinzer  
Jeff & Jessica Kovan  
Joey Latterman  
Wei Liao

Lifeng Luo  
Kathrina Manalac  
Paul Mantica  
Kristin Martini  
Jon & Teresa Mayes  
Barry McGuire  
Margaret Meyers  
Roushell N Z Mignott  
Marie Miller  
John & Michelle Mitchell  
Network for Good  
My-Chau Nguyen  
Eleanor Omoto  
Mary L. Rhodes  
Cathy Richter  
Karen Salmon  
Christina M. Schoonover  
Irene Shutt  
Ken & Tina Stephens  
Dennis & Kathleen Swan  
Regina Towl  
Justin Turner  
I.K. Twork  
Steve & Darlene Vagnozzi  
Frederick W. Vogt  
Jack & Carol Voss  
Frank & Shar Walsh  
JoAnn Warren  
Cyndi Webster  
Marcela Westrate  
Pamela J. Williams  
Yimin Xiao  
Steve & Christina Zepf  
Wei Zhang  
Zhenmei Zhang

*We apologize for any misspelt words or other errors. We will appreciate an e-mail with corrections to [Chair@oefsite.org](mailto:Chair@oefsite.org)*

*Learn about the impact you can make and for a complete list of our donors or to make a donation, please visit [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).*

**Thank you for  
supporting Okemos  
Students!**



## About the OEF

---

**The Okemos Education Foundation** is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting academic excellence at all levels of the district, from kindergarten through high school. Since 1984, the OEF has given more than \$1 million to enhance academic experiences for our students. We also recognize and support the excellent staff of Okemos Public Schools and the contributions they make to our community.

### HOW WE SUPPORT OKEMOS STUDENTS:

**OEF Grants** encourage innovative and creative teaching and provide expanded educational opportunities for students. Items and experiences funded by OEF grants vary each year, based on the requests received by staff. Last year, the OEF approved funding for 49 grants, spread across every subject area and building. As part of its program support, the OEF provided almost \$40,000 in club funding last year.

**OEF Educational Programs** offer a variety of special experiences for Okemos students. Some, like the Elementary Author Visit (in partnership with Horizon Bank) and the Fourth Grade Seeds of Science Field Trips, are annual, beloved programs. Others, like the Holocaust Storyteller, are unique projects sparked by the ingenuity of our faculty.

### HOW WE RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE:

**Okemos Education Foundation Awards:** Formal awards presented at the annual banquet.

**APPLE Awards:** Informal awards that offer recognition for an Amazing Performance in Promoting Learning and Excellence to any staff member and for any reason chosen by the donor. Often used as a public "thank you," these popular awards both brighten the day of our Okemos staff and contribute to the OEF's General Fund.

The OEF relies on donations from our community to meet our mission of "recognizing excellence and promoting innovation in Okemos Public Schools." We appreciate donations of any amount and enjoy recognizing the generosity of our "Partners in Education." Please consider a donation today. Learn more at [oefsite.org](http://oefsite.org).

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OKEMOS STUDENTS!**

## 2019-20 OEF TRUSTEES

---

### Ron Styka

*Board Co-Chair*

### Sue Hallman

*Board Co-Chair*

### Pratin Trivedi

*Vice-Chair*

### Aly Boggs-Smitley

*Corresponding Secretary*

### Lynne Thatcher

*Recording Secretary*

### Bidhan Redey

*Treasurer*

### Jennifer Hall-Berman

*Assistant Treasurer*

Deborah Baughman

Donna Kregelka

Shruti Nandani

Sara Roland

Christena Sinila

Mary Gebara

*OPS Board Rep*

John Hood

*OPS Superintendent*

## WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION...

---

### Banquet Chair

Sue Hallman

### Awards Chair

Shruti Gross

### Master of Ceremonies

Matt Ottinger

### Keynote Speaker

Tena Sinila & Donna Kregelka  
Okemos Students

### String Quartet

#### "Quartet Scherzo"

Taerin Kim - Violin

Sophia Lee - Violin

Thomas Burns - Viola

Jayden Elliott - Cello

### Video Production Crew

*The Okemos Channel*

Sydney Bull

Mohit Korganji

Cecil McIntire

Chelsea McIntire

Angela Voit

### Design and Layout

Smita Sawai

[avani-design.com](http://avani-design.com)

### Award Plaques

Larry Cushion Trophies &  
Engraving

### Photographer

Lifetouch National School  
Studios

### Florist

Al-Lin's Floral and Gifts