

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



Josh and Julia Cook

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Message from the President, Phyllis Youga, Alum 1986

We are so fortunate to have a community college in our county that is the first step on the path to success for individuals and our communities. Many of the thousands of students who have studied here are still living in St. Joseph County. They may be the nurse caring for you at your doctor's office, the teller at your bank, or the computer tech you rely on. What might their lives be like if they hadn't had the opportunity to attend locally when they began their educational journey. I wonder sometimes what might our community be like if we didn't have Glen Oaks Community College as an option for people to better their lives through education and training.

When I reflect back to earlier years when I was young and working hard to get ahead in search of a better job, financial security, opportunities for growth, one thing is for certain, it wouldn't have happened if there hadn't been donors making it possible. I'm paying it forward, and I hope you'll join me, because donations to the foundation is where it starts. Your support opens the door to better jobs, relationships and opportunities for today's young people working on getting ahead.



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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Message from the Executive Director, Vonda Marrow

Glen Oaks students are at the heart of why the Foundation exists. I know first-hand that scholarships change lives. For so many students, scholarships are not enough.

In FY '23 the Foundation asked what were the barriers students faced. The answer was surprising. It wasn't tuition. Rather it was the cost of a book, not having gas money to get to a clinical location, food insecurity or the cost to take the test to get a certification.



The Foundation explored ways in which charitable dollars could help.

The Foundation began using resources to buy books and supplies. We gave gas cards so students could get to clinical sites. We meet students where they are.

Your general fund donations help. Thank you. We appreciate you. Whether you are a long-time supporter or are considering your first donation, your financial support is vital to helping students be successful. Please give today.



JOSH AND JULIA COOK

Our names are Joshua and Julia Cook. We both graduated from Sturgis High School back in 2004. Neither one of us had gone on to complete secondary education after high school and instead went into the workforce and started a family. It was after Covid that we both saw the need and opportunity to finally go to college. Glen Oaks was an easy choice for the both of us as we felt they provided an excellent education and flexibility we both needed as working parents of four children. We cannot say enough nice things about the staff at Glen Oaks. They truly helped guide us the entire way, especially when it came to the different scholarships that were available and how to apply for them. The Glen Oaks Foundation Scholarship was extremely essential to the both of us. When you are a working family with young kids coming out of a worldwide pandemic, every penny counts and the scholarship opportunities at Glen Oaks made sure that we did not have to stop our education because of life and everyday bills.



We were able to be confident, knowing that we could take care of our family and outside obligations, and not worry about paying for school. It was one less thing for us to have to worry about while trying to work full-time jobs, taking care of our kids, and going to school full-time. We would highly recommend Glen Oaks to anyone directly out of high school or anyone who is going back to school later in life. It was an absolute game changer for the both of us, and we are both so thankful we got to do this together and receive our education in our local community.

\$81,776 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
68 STUDENTS HELPED

\$3,140 TOTAL AWARDED BOOKS & SUPPLIES
28 STUDENTS HELPED

ZIPPORA'S STORY



Zippora Marzetta, who is pursuing a nursing degree at Glen Oaks, came to the Foundation's attention in the spring. Zippora is a homecare/hospice worker and suffered some back/hip pain issues. While getting a full diagnosis and recovering, she had to go on unpaid FMLA leave. This had a significant impact on her family of five as the primary income earner for the family. Zippora's situation was further complicated because she was using a company car. Despite being ill, Zippora wanted to continue working on her nursing pre-requisites so that she could stay in the class and on track for testing. However, while on FMLA leave she could not use the vehicle so she had no way to get to her classes.

Zippora's advisor contacted the Foundation and asked if we could possibly help. Working together, we were able to arrange for Zippora to use the St. Joseph County Transportation Authority. The Foundation covered the cost of her trips between home and the College.

The Foundation was able to cover this expense because of generous donations made to the general fund, thus allowing the Board of Directors to decide how to spend those donations.

"St. Joseph County is incredibly generous with the Foundation. They know how important Glen Oaks is to this community," states Vonda Marrow, Executive Director of the Foundation. Marrow goes on to say "Without this community's partnerships and donations, we could not help students like Zippora.

NORMAN HAAS

Norman Haas led an amazing life. Co-founder of The Haas Corporation, mayor of Mendon, and “father of Glen Oaks Community College,” he left a profound legacy when he passed away in February 2023 at the age of 98. His children have chosen to memorialize his legacy by setting up an endowment through the Glen Oaks Foundation, to provide scholarships for students to attend the school to which he gave so much of himself.

“Glen Oaks is the most important thing I ever did in my life,” he said in a video shown at graduation in 2019.

Not only did Haas help bring Glen Oaks to St. Joseph County, he was elected the first president of its Board of Trustees and was instrumental in hiring its first president, administration and faculty. “The enthusiasm of the students and faculty was amazing – absolutely amazing,” he was quoted in a video prepared for the 50th anniversary of the College’s Centreville campus.

Haas himself fostered this attitude. “I remember that first day we got together for classes at White Pigeon,” former English professor and dean of instruction Tom Soper recalled in the same video, filmed prior to Soper’s passing in 2021. “Norm Haas went to the center of the high school basketball court; there were students seated in the bleachers, and, like a cheerleader, Norm got everybody to get up and yell how happy they were to be at Glen Oaks Community College. It was quite a moment.”

Outside of Glen Oaks, Haas, his father Paul, and cousins Ted, Carroll, and Art built The Haas Corporation from a chicken coop and car barn to a top-notch plastics company. Haas served in World War II as a Navy SeaBee in the South Pacific. And he held a variety of other jobs including real estate broker, business consultant, and part owner of a restaurant.

He and his wife, Genevieve (LaBombard), had four children. After her passing, he met Ana (Roberts) at a Mendon Showboat rehearsal, and the two married and had three more children.

“Dad was very proud of his seven jewels,” daughter Nicole Asher said. “He told people all of his children and grandchildren were smart and good-looking.” Though none of his children – Paul, Don, Gary, Barbara, Cyndi, Brenda, and Nicole – attended Glen Oaks, some of his 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren did.

Asher, who works in wealth management, spoke with her siblings about a “Qualified Charitable Distribution,” through which IRA holders over age 70 1/2 can donate up to \$100,000 of their required minimum distribution to a 501(c)(3) without increasing their taxable income. Several of them plan to use this option to contribute to the endowment. “It’s a great way to give money to charity,” Asher said.



While the family has not yet determined a specific mission for the endowment, “Dad was very generous in many ways,” Asher said. She noted that education meant a lot to him, and that he personally reaped the benefit of Glen Oaks when he received wonderful care later in life from a nurse trained there.

9 VIKING DROP-IN EVENTS

64 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS HOSTED

11 ALUMNI FEATURE STORIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

\$20,620.78 UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

\$48,810.50 RESTRICTED DONATIONS

Donor List

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Alliance Universal LLC
Ayres Insurance
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Lindsey Batten
Jamie Bennett-Yesh
Kelly Bibb, Edward Jones
Sara Birch
Candy Bohacz
Kim and Tom Bontrager
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Ann and John Wiedlea
Dawn Wood
Phyllis Youga and Michael Wilson
Amy Young
Jean Zimmerman
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Campus Cupboard Food Pantry

14% of GOCC students show signs of Very Low Food Security per the USDA scale. This means that students are skipping meals, eating less, or less nutritious meals when they do eat. In 2017, Glen Oaks established the Campus Cupboard to combat food insecurity on campus. The program is run/paid for entirely on grant funds along with generous payroll contributions from Glen Oaks staff and faculty.

College employees volunteer to run the program. Their objective is to serve as many students as possible while making the visit a comfortable experience for students. More than 150 requests are fulfilled annually. Your donation can help. Donate today to support the Campus Cupboard. Scan QR code, on back, and choose Campus Cupboard in the drop down menu.

\$38,779.39 PASS THROUGH DONATIONS

\$555.56 ESTATE GIFTS

101 DONORS

23 ALUMNI DONORS

2023 Fund List

The Donis Armstrong "A Step Up to the Sciences" Scholarship
Augspurger (Helen Jeanneret) Scholarship
Dennis and Sharon Baker Nursing Scholarship
Mitchell Baker General Studies Scholarship
Flora Kirsch Beck Fund
Richard M Bell Banking Scholarship
Big Sister Fund
Jim Bishop Memorial Athletic Scholarship
Elmer Black Community Leadership Scholarship
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GOCC Foundation General Fund
GOCC Foundation Scholarship
Farmers State Bank Business Scholarship
Freiburger-Keller Families Scholarship
Professor Emeritus David Gosling Memorial Scholarship
Ernest R Graham Memorial Scholarship
Gray Brothers Stamping Machine Company Scholarship

Dr. George R Hoekzema Business Studies Scholarship
Mary A Hoffine Nursing Scholarship Fund
In Appreciation Fund
Indiana Michigan Power Scholars Endowment
Joan & Richard Jacobs Nursing Scholarship Fund
Fredrica, Neva and Abraham Jaffee Scholarship Fund
Joslin Memorial Art Scholarship
Howard & Betty Lambertson Medical Studies Scholarship Fund
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Kenneth "Ken" R Nelson Scholarship
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Kenneth C Schuler Memorial Scholarship
EJ Shaheen Award for Teaching Excellence
Southern Michigan Bank & Trust Business Scholarship
Bernice L Strang Memorial Fund
Sturgis Bank & Trust Business Scholarship
Dr. Philip G & Isabel P Ward/McMillian Scholarship
Gary and Susan Wheeler Leadership Scholarship
Donald & Eloise Wiedenbeck Nursing Scholarship
Patricia J Wortinger Nursing Scholarship

For more information about donations: including the Glen Oaks in your estate plan; creating a scholarship; or getting involved with the Foundation, contact Vonda Marrow, Executive Director at vmarrow668@glenoaks.edu or call (269) 294-4384.

**Glen Oaks Community College
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There has never been a better time to go to college. Money is available to cover the cost of tuition and fees. However, students in 2023 struggle. They can't pay for books, buy supplies and sometimes pay for gas to get to class. The Foundation meets students where they are and helps meet these needs.

We can only do this because, you our generous donors, provide us the flexibility to meet these needs. When you make your 2023 donation to Glen Oaks, you help us provide students with the money to overcome these barriers. Make a donation today.



Glen Oaks Community College Foundation

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