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MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR VISION AWARENESS

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

 www.themfva.org

 [Facebook.com/MichiganFoundationForVisionAwareness](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganFoundationForVisionAwareness)

 ContactMFVA@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

2021 will certainly be remembered in history. With greater knowledge of safety measures, and through the many advances in research, prevention and treatment options stemming from the ongoing pandemic, our Board was able to resume in-person (though spread out and safe) meetings. We appreciate the dedication healthcare workers continue to display for our communities and our families.

A new endeavor made by the Board to support the MOA was involvement in their golf outing in August. We were happy to support the MOA in a way that ultimately helps protect our profession. We also hosted a photobooth at the MOA 125 th Anniversary Gala. Thanks to a donation from Essilor in covering the photo booth fees, the donations made at the photobooth went directly to the MFVA. We commend the MOA for their role in furthering optometry for all of these many years, and look forward to the bright future we have in working alongside them in our efforts to support optometry in Michigan.

Grant requests were limited again this year due to difficulties in planning in-person events; Special Olympics Opening Eyes and SVOSH trips were postponed in 2021. However, the MFVA continued to support scholarships for third-year optometry students, and scholarships for first-years continue to be supported annually by the interest generated from the endowment the MFVA created for the Michigan College of Optometry through the Ferris Foundation.

The MFVA By-laws were updated and approved by vote in the May meeting, primarily with edits in language regarding subcommittees and contributors that were relevant to our shift to a contributions-based (vs the previous members-based) organization.

The Annual Meeting is expected to take place in Big Rapids the weekend of Saturday, July 23, 2022 . The Board hopes to meet in person, and you are invited to attend live or via Zoom. If you'd like a link to be included in our meeting, please email us at contactmfva@gmail.com.

Like everything, our online presence continues to grow. Visit our website or our Facebook page to view updates. The photos and videos are fun to see! Comment and share our posts to continue to get the word out about the MFVA and the amazing work being done by the organizations we're thankful to support.

Additionally, our Board is always looking for vision-minded individuals to further the MFVA mission by serving on the Board. If you or a colleague, staff member, friend or family member are passionate about eye health and vision, and would like to attend a meeting to check us out, please email us today.

The MFVA is Your Foundation. Your support and your contributions allow us to continue our mission to support optometric students, fund grants that support vision-related scientific research and to provide educational outreach to the public regarding vision and eye health. If your project meets our mission, consider applying for a grant. If you believe in our mission or if you've personally benefited from receiving a scholarship or grant from the MFVA, consider donating and joining our Board.

We appreciate your support. Thank you for your dedication to supporting optometry and eye health in Michigan.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Geneva, OD, FAAO

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2021 MFVA ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the MFVA approved \$20,100 in grants and \$17,000 in scholarships, including \$13,600 to SVOSH for 2022 trips and \$6,500 for Opening Eyes Special Olympics

Congratulations to the 2021 3rd-year optometry student scholarship recipients:

- 👁️ **Chloee King, Standish, MI, Kentucky**
- 👁️ **Jordan Marentette, Grand Rapids, MI, MCO**
- 👁️ **James Carpenter, Northville, MI, MCO**

The MFVA has donated \$602,000 in scholarships (\$554,525 to MCO) since 1958!

MOA PAC Golf Classic

MFVA was glad to be a “Birdie” sponsor of the MOA PAC Golf Classic on August 11, and several Board members enjoyed the event!



MOA's Roaring '20's Gala

The MFVA, with the generous support of **Essilor**, hosted a fun photo booth at the MOA's Roaring '20's Gala celebrating their 125th Anniversary!



MFVA Trustee Julie McMullen, MOA Board member James Hardie and MOA Executive Director, Jeff Towns at the Gala.



Julie McMullen, Julie Marvin-Manders, Elizabeth Becker, Cynthia Geneva and Julia Holmes.

MFVA BOARD NEWS

After 22 years of service to the MFVA, **Michael Becker** retired! Mike served as the very first male member of what was then the American Foundation for Vision Awareness-Michigan Affiliate, and prior to that had been the MOA Women's Auxiliary. Mike served as MFVA President from 2006-2013, then Treasurer until 2020. His experience and insight have been invaluable, and he'll be missed—though he won't be entirely off the hook. We still have a historical project he's compiling, and he'll surely remain a resource and friend of the Board. Thank you for your service, Mike!



Michael and Cynthia

Bob Holmes, JD, served on the MFVA Board from 2008-2021. Bob contributed to the MFVA in innumerable ways with his legal expertise and calm and logical demeanor. His fondest memories are the time the Board spent together at the annual meetings, sitting around the fire chatting and the special events the MFVA sponsored at the MOA summer meetings like the Wine tasting tour up in Traverse City. Bob's wife, Julia, joined the Board in 2010, and continues to serve as the Scholarships Chair. You're already missed, Bob!



Julia Holmes presenting Bob Holmes with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the MFVA

The Board would also like to thank **Alex Williamson, OD** and **Erin Zainea** for their service to the MFVA.

Spotlight on New Trustees

Jim Burns

After growing up in Alpena, I earned a M.A. degree in Orientation and Mobility (O&M) from Western Michigan University's Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies. I hold certifications in O&M and low vision therapy. Although I have worked for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the majority of my career, I have also worked for private and state agencies. I taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the College of DuPage and Canyon College. I've also had the pleasure of serving on VA committees and work groups at the national level. During my career, I've worked with individuals who lost vision due to circumstances that seemed preventable. I witnessed their struggles and have done all I can to help them regain independence after the fact. I wanted to direct my efforts to somehow help prevent people from needlessly losing eye sight. The MFVA is a natural fit.



Jim Burns



Julie McMullen, OD

Julie McMullen, OD

I have been very active in the MOA where I served on the Board of Trustees from 2014-2021 and served as President for 2019-20. I was honored with the MOA's Optometrist of the Year award in 2021. I have been president/co-president of the Southwest Michigan Optometric Society (SWMOS) since 2008. I am a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry. I have been a continuing education course reviewer for the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) since 2011. I have participated in two Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) Missions to Honduras. I've also volunteered for community and elementary school vision screenings, presented eye health seminars, and written eye health articles for online newsletters. I'm very excited to join the MFVA and to support its mission of providing educational outreach and support for eyecare to underserved populations. I hope to give back to this organization that helped support my optometry education with a generous scholarship.

MFVA 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2021, the MFVA approved \$37,100 in grants and scholarships!

\$3,475 was received from donor contributions, and operating expenses totaled \$5,151.04.

The budget guidance for 2022 is \$113,000.



Are you involved in a project or research that fits the mission of the MFVA? Apply for a grant today! Information and application can be found on our website, themfva.org

MFVA is Michigan's only
optometric foundation;
MFVA is YOUR Foundation!

Please consider contributing to the
MFVA with a generous tax
deductible contribution today!

Contributions may be made by
mailing a check to:
MFVA c/o Treasurer Micah Taylor
19320 Golfview Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307

2021 MFVA ANNUAL MEETING

The Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness (MFVA) held their Annual Meeting July 17 in Lansing. While the original weekend meeting plans for Big Rapids changed, it was still a productive meeting.

The Board welcomed two new Trustees: Jim Burns and Julie McMullen, OD. The remainder of the Board include Cynthia Geneva (President), Mitch Dobrzelewski (Vice-President), Micah Taylor (Treasurer), Sara Weidmayer (Secretary), and Trustees Julia Holmes, Julie Marvin-Manders and Morgan Porzsolt-Graves. Jason Spaude is serving another year as Student Liaison from the Michigan College of Optometry.

At the meeting, the MOA President Bill Harmon updated the MFVA Board on the MOA's many recent activities, and MOA President-Elect Nick Czinder also joined. The MFVA appreciates its collaborative relationship with the MOA, and the continued advisory support of Jeff Towns, the MOA's Executive Director.

The MFVA is excited to continue providing optometric scholarships, further public education about eye health and vision, and support projects and research that do the same. If you or your organization need financial assistance for a project that is consistent with MFVA's mission, apply for a grant on our website!

If you have interest in serving on the MFVA's Board, please contact us at ContactMFVA@gmail.com for more information.

The 2021-2022 MFVA Trustees and Executive Committee are:

President: Cynthia Geneva, OD
Vice President: Mitch Dobrzelewski, OD
Secretary: Sara Weidmayer, OD
Treasurer: Micah Taylor

Trustees:

Jim Burns
Julia Holmes, OD
Julie Marvin-Manders, OD
Julie McMullen, OD
Morgan Porzsolt-Graves



Mike Becker, Cynthia Geneva, Julia Holmes, Morgan Porzsolt-Graves, Julie Marvin-Manders, Jason Spaude, Julie McMullen, Sara Weidmayer and Jim Burns



The 2022 MFVA Annual Meeting will be held July 22-24, 2022, and is tentatively scheduled to be in-person in Big Rapids! Please keep in touch with the MFVA and watch for updates as plans evolve.

2021 MFVA CONTRIBUTORS

The MFVA Board would like to sincerely thank those who contributed to the MFVA in 2021. Generous contributions ensure that the Foundation can continue to support its mission. We encourage you to make your annual contribution today!

CONTRIBUTORS:

Michael & Elizabeth Becker
Jim & Karin Burns
Nicholas Czinder
Mitch & Martha Dobrzelewski
Chris & Cynthia Geneva
William Harmon
Bob & Julia Holmes
Julie Marvin-Manders
John & Julie McMullen
Matt Klein & Nancy Peterson-Klein
Mike Graves & Morgan Porzsolt-Graves
Gregory Patera
Daniel & Micah Taylor
Jeff Towns
Nick & Sara Weidmayer
Alex Williamson
Jacob & Erin Zainea



If you would like to promote the mission of the MFVA, please consider donating your resources by contributing and by volunteering your time as a Trustee on the Board. MFVA is a 501c3 non-profit organization; contributions to MFVA are tax deductible! Contributions may be given by individuals, businesses or organizations. Please also consider future planned giving as you prepare your will or estate plan. Contributions can be made by visiting our website: www.themfva.org/donate