



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Janet White, Education Officer

HCCF Announces Youth Philanthropy Award Recipient



The Hancock County Community Foundation is honored to announce the **2019-20 Martha Beckenholdt Youth Philanthropy Award** recipient, Gage Guenin of Greenfield-Central High School. This award, named in honor of long-time Hancock County resident and philanthropist Martha Beckenholdt, recognizes a Hancock County High School junior who has contributed outstanding time, talent and energy to philanthropic endeavors. These are the true attributes of the woman whom the award honors.

Each year, the award recipient selects a Hancock County nonprofit organization or agency to receive a \$1,000 grant, donated by the Hancock County Community Foundation, in his or her name. Guenin chose Hope House to receive this year's grant. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the grant was mailed and not presented in person.

The applicants for this award each gathered a letter of recommendation from a local nonprofit leader or Hancock County high school staff member. Guenin's recommender was a teacher who spoke highly of his strong work ethic, leadership and volunteer effort. Guenin has been involved in track, cross country and National Honor Society and has volunteered with a variety of community service opportunities.

The recipient of the 2020 award was chosen via a two-step process. The blinded applications were evaluated first by HCCF staff who used a scoring rubric to narrow the field to four finalists. These finalists' applications were then evaluated by the HCCF Y-GIVE Youth Board consisting of four members from each of the four county high schools using the same rubric. Each finalist was then interviewed by the Y-GIVE students in a round-robin format with a scoring rubric. This format gave the applicants an opportunity to practice their interview skills. It also gave the Y-GIVE Board training in best-practices for conducting interviews, using rubrics and making difficult decisions.

HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. Working with caring individuals, families, and organizations to create or grow existing permanent endowment funds is critical to the organization's mission. These funds generate income that is distributed in the form of grants and scholarships to enrich and enhance life in Hancock County, as well as support the donor's favorite charitable causes, both at home and afar forever. HCCF has granted millions of dollars since their inception in 1992.

###