



**S** SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE

# annual REPORT

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

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## Steve Masters SCHOLARSHIP

The 2022 Michigan State Fair was produced in honor of the late Steve Masters. This year, and for years to come, the fair will not be the same without him but he will always be an integral part of the effort and our hearts. Steve was so passionate about the fair and all of the causes supported by the event, he leaves behind an amazing legacy and an immeasurable influence on everyone and everything he touched. We continue to wear the commemorative pin that was designed during the 2020 Virtual Michigan State Fair designed in Steve's honor.



In 2020, the Michigan State Fair and the Masters family established the Steve Masters Scholarship Fund, and were able to award \$2,000 each to two well deserving youth in Steve's honor. This scholarship is one of many ways Steve and his legacy will live on through the Michigan State Fair and continue to have an everlasting impact on the youth and in the community. This year's winners were Allie Purves and Matthew Sinclair.



Steve Masters is so deeply missed and always remembered. He was our greatest showman and goes down in history for his part in revitalizing the Michigan State Fair.



Bottom left: Scholarship Winner Matthew Sinclair  
Bottom right: Scholarship Winner Allie Purves



Steve MASTERS Our Greatest Showman



# Our MISSION

The Michigan State Fair, LLC, is a private enterprise that continues to grow and evolve, based on the legacy of the original Michigan State Fair, which debuted in 1849. The original event was one of the first statewide Fairs to emerge in the continental USA. The State Fair moved to the Fairgrounds at Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in 1905, and was staged there until 2009, when it was discontinued by a resolution of the state government, due to ongoing budget issues.

Following several years of exploratory discussions amongst local leaders and elders in the state agriculture industry, a new Michigan State Fair business model began to emerge; the only one of its kind in North America. The 2013 Michigan State Fair was produced as a private entity at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, with zero taxpayer funding, and Fifth Third Bank as a title sponsor. Since that time, the Michigan State Fair, A Private Entity, LLC, has continued to grow, year after year, increasing the acreage of the Michigan State Fairgrounds to accommodate continued expansion. The event has become a highly anticipated annual celebration of the state's grand farming heritage and burgeoning agricultural economy.

The Michigan State Fair, LLC is devoted to the ongoing development and support of agriculture, business entrepreneurship, and family entertainment, while preserving the legacy and beloved traditions of the original State Fair. This privately produced event carries forward all of the positive aspects of past Fairs, including substantial positive economic impact, with major charitable and community benefits, all with no burden to the taxpayer.

## Special THANK YOU

Novi Police, Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff, Novi Fire Department, Superior Ambulance, Star EMS, and Ascension St. John Providence Hospital



## Community PARTNERS



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
Governor



GARY MCDOWELL  
Director, MDARD



DAVE COULTER  
Oakland County Executive



BOB GATT  
Mayor, City of Novi



## Message from BLAIR BOWMAN Manager

Thank you!

I am so proud to be able to celebrate our 10th year as The Michigan State Fair and being able to privately produce this event and continue to deliver back to the community! It was our goal when a committed group of us got together to revive this great Fair, that we would work to bring back and honor many of the long-term traditions and also create new ones and bring forth a quality State Fair with a modern twist. After over a decade at this effort, I am happy to state that I believe we have been able to achieve this overall goal. This year was still a very challenging effort coming out of the pandemic and dealing with impacts to the Fair and Carnival industries and the overall personnel and employment issues that are affecting almost every industry. Coming off of last year's overwhelming record attendance, we knew we had to work hard to improve the overall attendee experience. From new parking procedures to an expanded fair layout we were overall very pleased with many of the things we were able to accomplish. There is still work to be done and refinements to be made as we look to continue to improve on our promise to be Michigan's #1 Family Event!

As in years past, I am most proud of the new tradition we established with the Michigan State Fair effort of giving back to the community. This is accomplished by supporting community organizations such as the Detroit Shriners, Novi Rotary, and many area food banks to name a few. In addition, we opened up our doors free of charge to Military veterans and their families, as well as over 40 charitable organizations to attend a preview of the Fair on Wednesday night. Finally, we continue to support our youth, both urban and rural, with over \$50,000 in scholarships. This year's total community giveback was \$1,217,622.

This effort would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, our Executive and Steering Committees and our volunteers. Also, we would like to thank the City of Novi and their public safety division along with support from Oakland County and the Michigan State Police who help us provide a safe and orderly environment for the fair.

We are so very proud to present this 10th anniversary edition of our Annual Report and look forward to welcoming everyone again next year to the Michigan State Fair!

Blair Bowman, Manager





# THE DETROIT *Shriners* ORGANIZATION



2022  
CHARITABLE & COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATION

*Giveback*  
**\$1,217,000**

Giving back has always been at the center of the organization since our inception in 2013. In the ten years that we have been in existence, the Michigan State Fair, LLC has returned \$5,393,000 back to Michigan residents through charitable, financial, and in-kind contributions to community organizations, scholarship recipients, and the charity preview night event.

**\$5,393,000**  
TO DATE



This year, we celebrate a tremendous milestone in our history. Our Nobles, ladies, and friends continue to support our amazing Shrine by volunteering at our many events including the Michigan State Fair, our most prized event. This event raises funds to support our local Shrine and our local community. These funds support our Temple and our programs for our local kids. We are indebted to Blair Bowman for his support and his generosity in allowing us to participate in the Michigan State Fair.

Today is a momentous day for Shriners Children's as we officially celebrate 100 years of providing the Most Amazing Care Anywhere! We want to share our heartfelt gratitude for the tireless commitment of all the Nobles, ladies, employees and supporters who have uplifted our mission and our organization over the past century.

What began in 1922 as one hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana, is now a unique healthcare system with a worldwide reputation for finding answers and giving families hope. We have made bold changes throughout our 100-year history to ensure continued innovative pediatric specialty care, world-class research and outstanding medical education. We have changed the lives of more than 1.5 million families, and this success is a testament to the selflessness of all those who came before us and to each of you. We hope you find time today to celebrate and are proud to say you are part of 100 years of care.

Even as we pause to celebrate our past, we are firmly focused on an even brighter future. As we look forward to a new century of caring for kids, Shriners Children's will continue to share our wealth of compassion and expertise by helping more kids in more places. Many exciting things are on the

horizon, although we will always stay committed to our foundation of putting our patients first. Our family-centered care creates an atmosphere of hope and healing and will continue to elevate our mission to new heights as we move into the next 100 years.

Thank you again for all you do each and every day to support our enduring and unwavering mission. We truly feel we are part of the greatest philanthropy and greatest organization in the world. Happy 100th anniversary and here's to many milestones to come!

*Craig Stigleman*

Detroit Shrine Circus Chairman



www.detroitshriners.com

# Success BY THE NUMBERS

2022 GIVEBACK TO COMMUNITY

\$1,217,000

CHARITABLE & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
GIVEBACK TO DATE

\$5,393,000

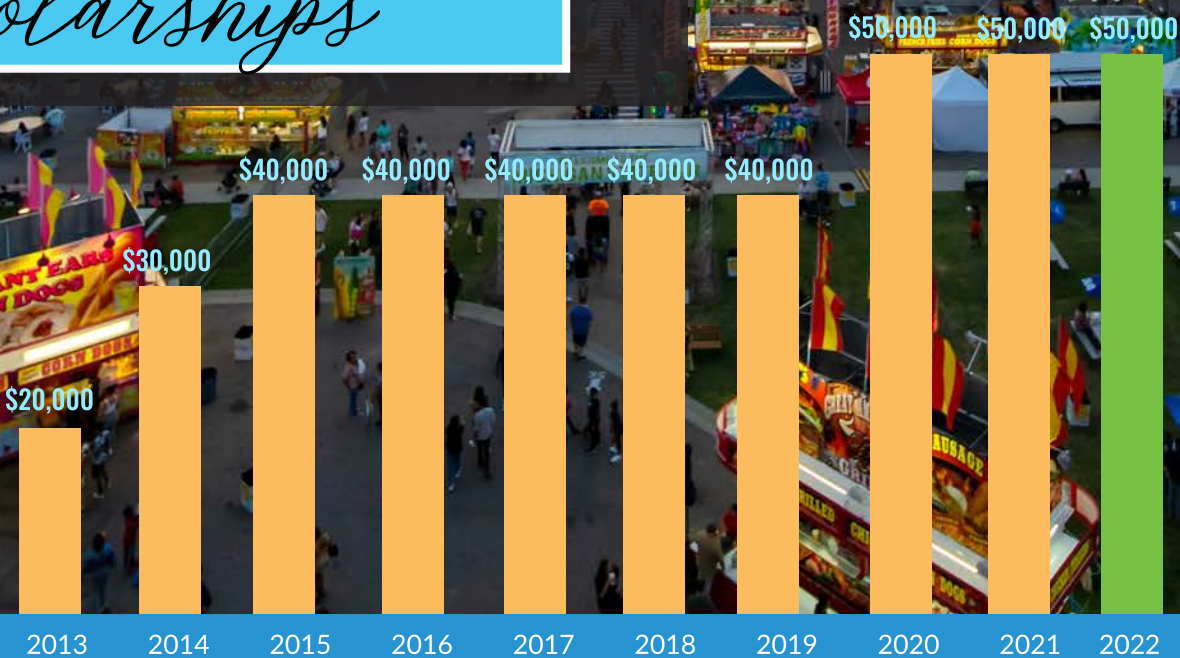
2022 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED  
ACROSS THE STATE

66

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE

561

## Scholarships



27%

INCREASE IN  
ATTENDANCE  
FROM 2019\*

\*LAST IN-PERSON FAIR NOT INFLATED  
DUE TO THE PANDEMIC EFFECT

Total: 215,473



376

VOLUNTEERS



142

VENDORS



295

EXHIBITORS WITH  
2896 TOTAL ENTRIES



\$20,000

YOUTH URBAN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$20,000

YOUTH AGRICULTURE/HOME ARTS AND LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,000

VIRTUAL SHOWCASE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH MSU 4-H EXTENSION

# WHERE OUR *Guests* ARE FROM



PEOPLE FROM  
**38**  
*States*  
WERE OUR GUESTS

- ALABAMA
- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- COLORADO
- CONNECTICUT
- WASHINGTON DC
- FLORIDA
- GEORGIA
- HAWAII
- IOWA
- INDIANA
- ILLINOIS
- IDAHO
- KENTUCKY
- MASSACHUSETTS
- MARYLAND
- MICHIGAN
- MINNESOTA
- MONTANA
- MISSOURI
- NORTH CAROLINA
- NEW JERSEY
- NEW MEXICO
- NEVADA
- NEW YORK
- OHIO
- OKLAHOMA
- OREGON
- PENNSYLVANIA
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- TENNESSEE
- TEXAS
- UTAH
- VIRGINIA
- VERMONT
- WASHINGTON
- WISCONSIN
- WYOMING

*Guests from*  
**646**  
CITIES, VILLAGES,  
AND TOWNSHIPS

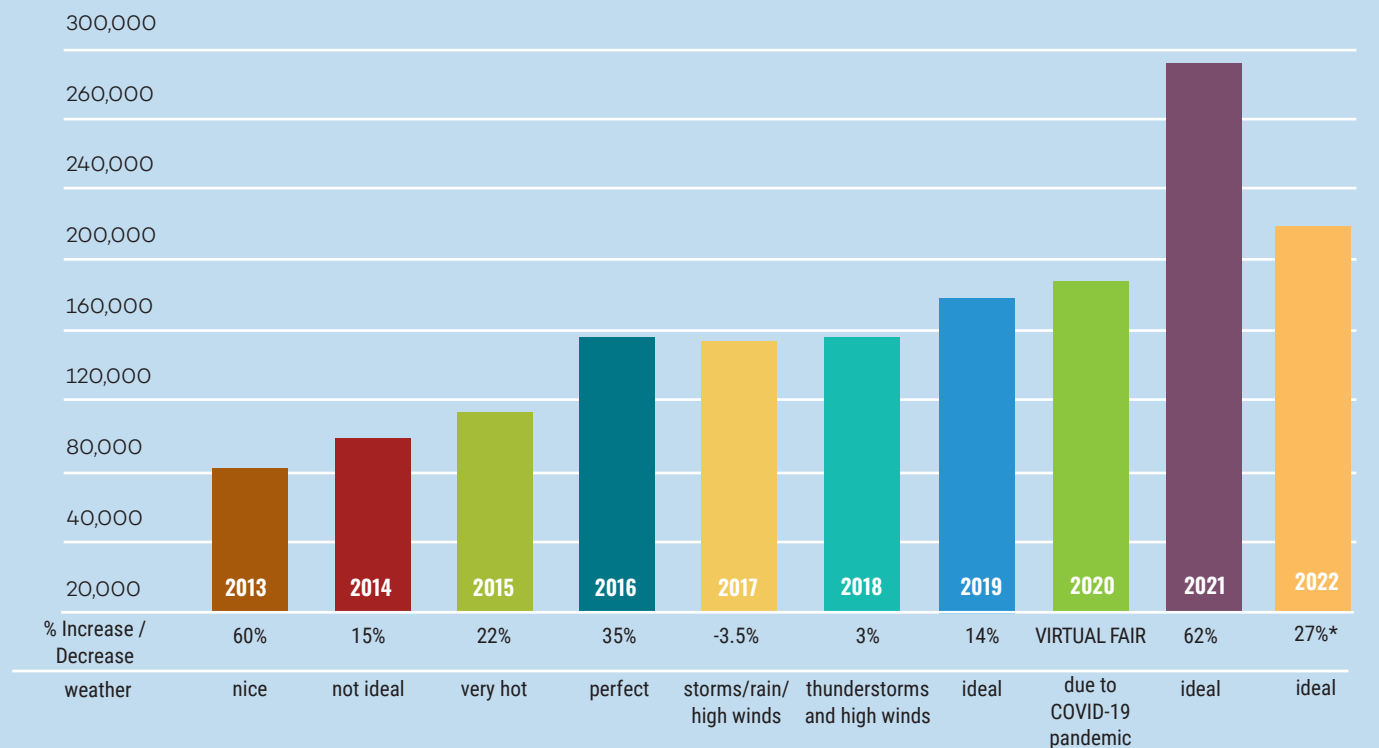


People from 646 cities, villages, and townships in Michigan visited the 2021 Michigan State Fair along with residents from 38 states and we even had international guests from:

- CANADA
- UNITED KINGDOM
- JAPAN
- RUSSIA
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- PUERTO RICO
- FRANCE
- BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



## *Yearly* ATTENDANCE INCREASES



\* from 2019, last in-person fair not inflated due to the pandemic effect

# Our STEERING COMMITTEE

Establishing the vision and direction of an important community event, such as The Michigan State Fair, could never be accomplished without the support and participation of many valued volunteers. A dedicated and talented core group of individuals provided the heart and guidance for the 2022 Michigan State Fair, as the Steering Committee.

**JOHN ALMSTADT**  
Oakland County

**DEAN ANGOTT**  
CF Burger Creamery

**TOM ARNOLD**  
Arnold Amusements

**PETE AUGER**  
City of Novi

**DR. MIKE BALON**  
mittee - Studio B

**BARBARA BARRATT**  
Flagstar Bank

**JIM BETTS**  
Urban Scholarship Committee

**BLAIR BOWMAN SR.**  
Michigan State Fair Manager/  
Proprietor

**MCKENZIE BOWMAN**  
Michigan State Fair Media/PR/  
Operations

**BLAIR BOWMAN JR.**  
Michigan State Fair Operations

**BOB BOWMAN**  
Michigan State Fair Operations

**KIMBERLE BOWMAN**  
Volunteer Committee

**BARBARA BOWMAN**  
Volunteer

**DEB CHAPMAN**  
Sheep Superintendent

**MARK CHAPMAN**  
Sheep Superintendent

**NADINE COOK**  
Ascension Providence

**LINDA COON**  
Goat Superintendent

**DAVE COON**  
Goat Superintendent

**BETH CORREA**  
Flagstar Bank

**HUGH CRAWFORD**  
Senior Citizens' Program Committee

**KATHY CRAWFORD**  
Senior Citizens' Program Committee

**BOB CUMMINGS**  
State Fair Historian

**ARLENE DEFOREST**  
Volunteer

**CARRIE DELONG**  
Dairy Superintendent

**RENNIA DOMBROWSKI**  
Volunteer

**ELISE DUFF**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

**RON ELLISON**  
Swine Superintendent

**DEBBIE ELLSWORTH**  
Military Families United

**JOHN ELLSWORTH**  
Military Families United

**JOEY EVANS**  
Arnold Amusements

**JULIE FARKAS**  
City of Novi

**ELISA FIXLER**  
Entertainment Committee - Studio B

**TERRI FREYTAG**  
Suburban Collection Showplace

**JENNIFER FROHRIEP**  
Pepsi

**BOB GATT**  
City of Novi

**AARON GERMAINE**  
ArtCraft Display

**MICHELLE GESKE**  
Detroit Shriners

**JEFF GESKE**  
Detroit Shriners

**JIM GOTTS**  
Detroit Shriners

**SUE GROVER**  
Livestock Office & Entries Coordinator

**MARSHA HARWOOD**  
Home Arts Director

**KREG HASSE**  
Leisure Works

**JERRY ANN**  
Hebron Oakland Avenue Farm/ Urban  
Scholarship Committee

**PAUL HESS**  
Epoch Hospitality Group

**SHENDY HOPKINS**  
Flagstar Bank

**RACHEL HURST**  
Kroger

**JESSICA ILOFF**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

**JILL JACK**  
Dream Big, Inc./ Superstar Mentor

**ALAN JAROS**  
Charles L. Bowers School Farm Director

**RUTH ANN**  
Jirasek Entertainment Committee

**STEVE KARAKULA**  
Art Craft Display

**GARY KIRSH**  
ITC

**JOE KISH**  
Detroit Shriners

**KRISTINE KONESCO**  
Poultry Superintendent

**MIKE KOWALL**  
Previous Senator

**ED KRAMER**  
Lions Club

**AMANDA KULIKOWSKI**  
Novi Police

**KEVIN LAWRENCE**  
Volunteer

**JOHN MARTIN**  
Novi Fire Department

**ED MASTERS**  
A1 Vinyl Signs

**SUE MASTERS**  
A1 Vinyl Signs

**GREG MCGUIRE**  
Guernsey Farms Dairy

**KIMBERLE MCGUIRE**  
Guernsey Farms Dairy

**MARTY MCGUIRE**  
Guernsey Farms Dairy

**COLLEEN MCGUIRE**  
Guernsey Farms Dairy

# OUR DEEPEST *Gratitude*

Our deepest gratitude and thanks go out to them for their efforts to help make the fair a multi-faceted event that effectively serves many broad community objectives.

**JACKIE MCMAHON**  
Michigan State Fair Operations/Graphic &  
Web Design

**JOHN MINNIS**  
Volunteer

**JUDY MOORE**  
Home Arts Director

**SUE MOORE**  
Suburban Collection Showplace

**DEB MORGAN**  
MSU Extension

**JOHN NAGODA**  
Detroit Shriners

**JOHN NELSON**  
Novi Police Department

**LYNN O'BRIEN**  
Veterans' Memorial Park Commission

**LISA PARTOGIAN**  
Volunteer Committee

**MARK PARTOGIAN**  
5K Committee

**SHARI PETERS**  
Volunteer

**WILLIS PLANK**  
Rabbit Superintendent/Wool

**CHRIS PLANK**  
Rabbit Superintendent

**ROB REID**  
Livestock Committee Member

**SARA RESSLER**  
Livestock Office Manager

**JACK RILEY**  
Friends of the Fair Committee/5k  
Committee/Volunteer

**KENT ROBERTS**  
Urban Scholarship Committee

**KEN ROBERTS**  
Camping

**LAURA ROCHOW**  
Michigan State Fair Box Office Manager

**SHAMIN SANDERS**  
Hyatt Place Detroit Novi

**MAV SANGHVI**  
Entertainment Committee

**LC SCRAMLIN**  
Director of Livestock

**JACKIE SCRAMLIN**  
Director of Livestock, Agriculture,  
& Home Arts

**MATT SCRAMLIN**  
Livestock Director

**WALTER SLAN**  
Volunteer of the Year

**RILEY STECHSCHULTE**  
Michigan State Fair Operations/ Show  
Office/ Volunteer Coordinator

**CRAIG STIGLEMAN**  
Detroit Shriners

**CAL STONE**  
2 Stones Events/ Entertainment  
Committee

**WHITNEY STONE**  
2 Stones Events/ Entertainment  
Committee

**CYNTHIA STUMP**  
ITC

**JEFF ST. PIERRE**  
Michigan State Fair Operations

**AARON TAYLOR**  
Hyatt Place Detroit Novi

**JIM TESEN**  
Senior Citizens' Program Committee

**KATE THIEL**  
Michigan Farm Bureau

**MARK THEISEN**  
Captain - Novi Fire Department

**ROXANNE TURNER**  
MSU Extension

**CHRISTA WILLIAMS**  
Ascension Foundation

**DEBBIE WROBEL**  
Senior Citizens' Program Committee/  
Volunteer

**KEITH WUOTINEN**  
Leieutenant - Novi Police Department

**F/LT. WHITFIELD**  
MI State Police

**TARZAN ZERBINI**  
Shrine Circus



Steering Committee Members Blair Bowman and L.C. and Jackie Scramlin

# Thank You!



Steering Committee Members Michelle Geske & Craig Stigleman

# Major SPONSORS



The initial question, posed ten years ago, as to whether or not the business community would embrace and support a new model Michigan State Fair at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi has been answered with a resounding “Yes!” The Michigan State Fair, a Private Entity LLC, is a for profit organization, which receives no support from tax-payers or the State of Michigan. To accomplish the monumental task of reinventing the State Fair model we have developed key partnerships with Michigan business and industry. The contributions and importance of these supporters along with the various roles they play cannot be overstated, and are instrumental to our continued growth as we re-establish, re-invent, and re-imagine the role of a State Fair in the 21st Century.

Farm Bureau, The City of Novi, AV Squared Audio and Visual, Art Craft Display, and Epoch Hospitality Group all joined us as we began this journey and adventure, rekindling a beloved, dormant tradition that had meant so much to so many for so long are still with us today.

The first few years were a time of astonishingly rapid growth in all components of The Michigan State Fair and includes adding substantial new partners to our sponsor family. Along the way we were fortunate that Kroger Company of Michigan, Pepsi, 2 Stone Events, Studio B, Media Alchemy LLC, Hadrout Design, Waterford WTV10 and Hyatt Place Detroit/Novi, among others, all added their singular skills and talents to the efforts of the founding partners and the State Fair Steering Committee members, increasing the amazing groundswell of overall support and positivity. All of this combined energy, imagination and inspiration has elevated each successive Michigan State Fair to be better than the last.

Foundational sponsors, Kroger, Blue Care Network of Michigan, Suburban Collection Showplace, Detroit Moslem Shriners, Ascension Health System, Pepsi, Leisure Works Hot Tub and Swim Spas, C.F. Burger Creamery, Guernsey Farms Dairy, ITC, and Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau, Oakland County

Thank You!





2022 Michigan State Fair Scholarship Winners



# Michigan State Fair SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The scholarship program serves as a bridge and connector between our urban and rural communities. These urban farming initiatives are relatively new compared to the more traditional areas within our rural communities. Urban farming initiatives are now serving as important cornerstones in helping many urban areas begin to thrive. The rural winners carry forward the rich Michigan farming traditions that have made our State a national leader in agriculture for more than a century. These scholarship winners clearly demonstrate their passion and commitment, and represent the desires of their generation of young people. As Michigan's second leading industry, these students are real life examples that the agricultural legacy is strong and will continue. This year's winners represent 28 different counties and 5 Urban Gardens/Farms within Michigan.

WINNERS COUNTIES

## Counties OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND APPLICANTS

Our winners are diverse and represent the various communities and cultures of our great State. Education is empowering and it is our hope that our investment in youth will deliver a strong dividend for the State of Michigan, our fellow Michiganders, along with the business and industry that call our great State home.

A special thanks to The Kroger Company of Michigan, The Detroit Moselm Shrine, Guernsey Farms Dairy, C.F. Burger Creamery, ITC, Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau, and Michigan State University Extension for leading the charge to fund the scholarship programs for 2022.



### 2022 URBAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

#### TOLLGATE FARMS 4-H

Eva Geiserman  
Evan Gabrys  
Rachel Seeley  
Mariella Gabrys  
Rachel Siporin

#### SINCLAIR GARDENS

Matthew Sinclair

#### OAKLAND AVENUE URBAN FARM

Raymond Underwood Jr  
A'Miya Layfield  
Carlos Leonard  
Matthew Underwood  
Iyanah Duhart  
Auhshana Berry

#### CADILLAC URBAN GARDENS

Fidel Marquez  
Lilah Bermudez  
Camila Mendez  
Monica Zamudio  
Jose Mendez  
Eric Perales  
Andrea Mendez  
Jairo Gonzalez  
Elizabeth Morales  
Yahir Hernandez  
Mikael Thornton  
Maria Belen Bermudez-Lara  
David Estrada  
Julian Bermudez-Lara  
Amy Estrada

#### SPRINGWATER LANE GARDEN

Eli Measom  
Hannah Measom

### 2022 VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Alexis Fisher  
Allison Linnea Mroczek  
Allison Vandy Littlefield  
Amanda Scarlett Towne  
Courtney Steffee  
Isabelle Vartanian  
Kylie Ossege  
Madelyn Fay Kvicala  
Sophia Brigid Hoy  
Travis Ray Liford



### 2022 LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

#### DAIRY

Adam Jackson  
Stoney Buell

#### BEEF

Andrew Johnston  
Kylee Mumford

#### SHEEP

Drew George  
Jaycie Brown

#### GOATS

Allie Bottiglia  
Caden Ringkvist

#### SWINE

Brianna Stockwell  
Nick Aprill

#### POULTRY

Allie Purves  
Fox Therrian

#### RABBITS

Shelby Oberdorf  
Oscar Vartanian

### 2022 HOME ARTS & AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Joshua Marimpietri  
Ivey Davenport  
Charlee Klink  
Sarah Russell  
Jonathan Sinclair  
Danykah Muck  
Tierney Tocco

Grace Roberts  
Conner Shirk  
John Strouse  
Colton Royer  
Jase Klink  
Olivia Schwab

*Thank You!*



A NIGHT OF  
*Giving Back*  
CHARITY  
PREVIEW  
NIGHT



Cousino "Patriot"  
Marching Band

Charity Preview Night was on Wednesday, August 31st, and provided a more relaxed and personal evening for fair goers. The entire evening was revamped and slowed down so that our guests, many with special needs, can enjoy the evening in a less crowded atmosphere.

An estimated 8,000 Michigan family members involved with local nonprofit organizations, as well as active military and veterans, were led into the fair by the Cousino "Patriot" Marching band and participated in the invite-only charity sneak peek event.

Ribbon Cutting for the 10th Anniversary of the Michigan State Fair



*Community* CONTRIBUTIONS

Throughout the week of the Michigan State Fair on Thursday, September 1st through Monday, September 5th, Fairgoers could enjoy reduced admission with a contribution of canned or non-perishable food items. In total, this effort collected 1,352 pounds of assorted foods. The food items were donated to Gleaners Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan and will provide more than 1,122 meals to hungry neighbors in need! Tickets were on sale at southeast Michigan Kroger locations with \$2.00 of every ticket sale going towards feeding hungry families. This year, 118,842 meals were provided. In addition to feeding Michigan Hungry Families, we are also saving lives through Versiti blood center of Michigan. For the 2022 blood drive, 291 lives will be saved, and we welcomed 85 new donors.



KROGER ZERO HUNGER PARTNERSHIP

In conjunction with our partnership with Kroger of Michigan, this year we donated

**118,842 MEALS**

FRIENDS OF THE FAIR NIGHT

During our Friends of the Fair portion of the evening, guests were invited to enjoy the ambiance of our Entertainment Pavilion. Restaurants including Guernsey Farms Dairy, M Street Baking, Olga's Kitchen, On the Border, Sedona Taphouse, A Serendipity Cakery, Texas Roadhouse, Thai Basil, EPOCH Catering, and Fireside Bar & Grill served various appetizers to our guests, and Local Heros joined us again on the Ascension Main Stage to provide live music and entertainment.



FOF Attendees Sue and Kathy with SunShine the Clown

ATTENDING PARTICIPANTS:



**291 LIVES SAVED**  
including 85 first time Versiti donors





## Livestock & SHOWMANSHIP

The reboot of the Michigan State Fair was similar to what was experienced at most State and county fairs in our region as to entries and exhibitors. While total number of exhibits were down, the rich show of our states diverse Agriculture provided guests with many experiences see and wonder at the many displays. In the Urban & Rural Youth Scholarship area, 100 youths vied for \$40,000 in Scholarships.

As Michigan's second leading industry, these students are real life examples that the agricultural legacy is strong and will continue. This year's winners represent 28 different counties and 5 Urban Gardens/Farms within Michigan.

For the fifth year, the Michigan State Fair hosted a Giant Pumpkin Contest, this year with 12 participating pumpkins. The pumpkins made it to the scales and the winner tipped in at 1638 pounds! Congratulations to Dave & Carol Stelts from Enon Valley, PA who grew the winning pumpkin. A huge thank you goes to Oakland County Farm Bureau for sponsoring the exhibitors for this contest.

Daily demonstrations of sheep shearing, spinning, and weaving were well received by visitors, and Dr. Stacy Zuelly did daily cooking classes for patrons to see how to prepare different cuts of meat. Lastly, we continued the tradition of honoring our late Executive Director Steve Masters, with the Steve Masters Master Showman award (formally showmanship sweepstakes).

## 2022 Winner THE BILL BOWMAN SR SUPREME OF SUPREMES

### BRENDAN PARKS, SWINE

The 3rd Bill Bowman Sr Supreme of Supremes was shown with Brendan Parks winning this year with his Swine. The contest has the Supreme of the 5 large species compete against each other for a \$1000 prize. Judging is done by a committee of exhibitors to choose the winner.

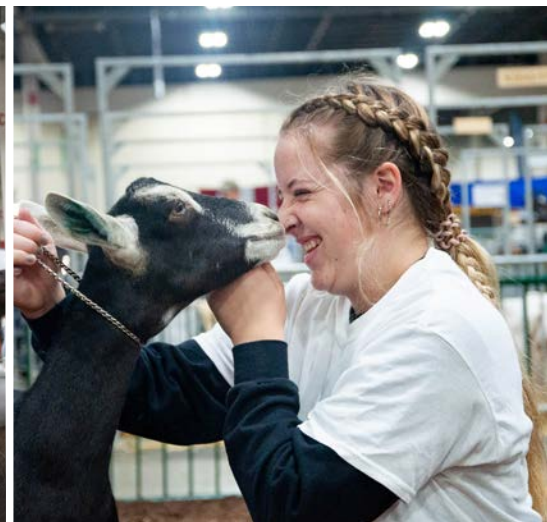
#### Past Winners:

2021: Drew George - Southdown Ewe

2019: Maggie Reid - Angus Heifer



Bill Bowman Supreme of Supremes Winner Brendan Parks with Members of the Bowman Family



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



OAKLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE  
LEADERSHIP | PROMOTION | SCHOLARSHIP | EDUCATION



## Thank You TO OUR SUPERINTENDENTS

### DAIRY

Terry and Carrie Delong

### BEEF

Scott and Julie Fleming and Tom Klink

### SHEEP

Mark and Deb Chapman

### GOATS

Linda and Dave Coon

### SWINE

Ron Ellison

### POULTRY

Kristine Konesko

### RABBITS

Chris and Willis Plank

### HOME ARTS/AGRICULTURE

Judy Moore

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

Jerry Chebron

### OFFICE MANAGER

Sara Ressler

# 46

COUNTIES  
& 4 OTHER  
STATES

Adults and youth from 46 counties and 4 other states participated in exhibiting everything from animals, agriculture, and home arts during the 2022 Michigan State Fair.



OHIO



INDIANA



PENNSYLVANIA



NEBRASKA

# Senior Citizens Program AT THE MICHIGAN STATE FAIR



Honoring the elders of our great state on the first day of the State Fair is one of the most rewarding and heartwarming times of the weekend for all of us. The Senior Program has become a popular offering, and even after expanding registration for 2022, advance reservations were completely full by August!! We offer our deep gratitude to all of the sponsors and committee members who contributed time, energy, catering, door prizes and other offerings for our cherished State Fair Senior Citizens.

Special Thanks to Blue Care Network of Michigan for sponsoring Free Admission for all seniors on opening day of the fair, as well as 900 tote bags and prizes; US Foods, Gordon's and Kroger for providing the Continental Breakfast; and Epoch Catering and US Foods for boxed lunches. Thanks to our entertainment partners, Redi Choi - 2017 State Fair Superstar and the SilverSneakers.



Ms Michigan with Senior Program Volunteers



## THE SENIOR PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Riley Stechsulte**  
Michigan State Fair
- Jackie McMahon**  
Michigan State Fair
- Nancy Couch Nowak**  
Northville Senior Center
- Kathy Crawford**  
Committee Leader
- Mindy Fernandes**  
Committee Member
- Judy Klein**  
City of Novi
- Sue Koivula**  
Operations Manager at Michigan Association of Senior Centers
- Nicki Giordano**  
Michigan State Fair Operations Intern
- Derek Stogner**  
City of Novi
- Karen Kapchonic**  
Committee Member
- Karl Peters**  
Livonia Senior Center
- Jim Tesen**  
Michigan State Fair Volunteer
- Debbie Wrobel**  
Michigan State Fair Volunteer
- Debbie Shew**  
Michigan State Fair Volunteer
- Carrie Soroka**  
Livonia Senior Center
- Jessica Iloff**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Elise Duff**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

## Michigan State Fair YOUTH COUNCIL



This year, the Michigan State Fair Youth Council welcomed a new president, Amina Thompson. Amina has shown nothing but excitement to take on this role, and is eager to work with the Youth Council on bridging the gap between rural and urban agriculture! Overall, the Youth Council's presence over the past seven years since the inception of the council, has grown exponentially by increasing the amount of youth participation from various counties throughout Michigan, and we are excited to see what is in store for 2023!



## FLAGSTAR BANK GOLD RIBBON OUTREACH PROGRAM

Flagstar Bank became Presenting Sponsor of the fair's Agricultural Ambassador and Gold Ribbon Scholarship Programs in 2018. The Ambassador Program fosters relationships between young agriculturalists from rural and urban backgrounds, while the Gold Ribbon Program awards \$500 scholarships to select youth exhibitors. The sponsorship has continued since then—even during COVID with a virtual Moovin' Thru the Midway 5K race—and has included hosting a farmers market at bank branches, partnering with agricultural ambassadors at Oakland Avenue Farms in Detroit, and assistance in building a chicken coop at the Farms, courtesy of Flagstar volunteers.

Beth Correa, director of corporate responsibility at Flagstar, said the sponsorship offers the opportunity to build bridges between young people with a shared interest in farming. "It's really about things like apprenticeship, workforce readiness, and new career possibilities—all areas that Flagstar focuses on through its foundation and community reinvestment," Correa said. "And of course, the fair is a cherished tradition, a hugely popular favorite family event, and another reason to make Michigan and metro Detroit home."



# Continuing GREAT TRADITIONS

# Starting NEW TRADITIONS



## CONTEST CENTRAL

This year's Contest Central Stage, sponsored by Pepsi, was full of tons of exciting games and competitions for all ages. The stage welcomed fairgoers from all walks of life to come out and take a break from the standard fair activities. The contests ranged from egg races to pie eating contests, and there was even an Ice Cream eating contest. Special thanks to Guernsey Farms Dairy for providing us the ice cream. Contestants would compete in front of crowds filled with dozens of their friends, family and curious onlookers wondering what all the commotion was about. Contest Central was the place to be if you wanted a good laugh watching strangers compete against each other in games you could only see at a State Fair.



## GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

### GREAT PUMPKIN COMMONWEALTH

The fifth year for the Giant Pumpkin Contest yielded 12 entries and a winner checking in at 1,638 pounds - over 100 pounds heavier than last year's winning pumpkin. Congratulations to Dave & Carol Stelts of Enon Valley, PA!

### U.S. RECORD LONG GOURD

In addition to giant pumpkins, people from around the state and country travel to the Michigan State Fair with other large produce. This year, the Feller Family from Ohio brought their Long Gourd that broke national records at over 154 inches (over 12.5 feet) long. Congratulations Feller Family!



## C.F. BURGER CREAMERY

### Michigan State Fair BUTTER COW

The State of Michigan Butter Cow tradition dates back decades and is a wonderful merger of art, agriculture, and butter... lots and lots of butter. Sponsored by the C.F. Burger Creamery & Guernsey Farms Dairy, sculptor Rachel Wolski who was mentored by long term lead sculptor Tom Paul Fitzgerald transformed hundreds of pounds of butter into a beautiful work of art. Each year the breed of the mother and her calf changes as an homage to the various dairy breeds that supply the milk that is transformed into butter and then into the annual butter cow. This is a "dairy" cool exhibit that the whole family will enjoy.

## COMMODITY STAGE

Each year the Michigan State Fair puts on a Literacy Day on the Thursday of the fair to promote reading in Michigan Youth. New this year, we were excited to partner with Novi Public Library to offer their readers of the Tails and Tales reading program general admission entry to attend the Literacy Day event. Seven authors from around Michigan came to the fair and read their books to these young readers! Following the reading, guests had the chance to receive a free signed copy of our authors books. Following Literacy Day - from Friday to Monday, in partnership with Oakland County Farm Bureau, we also featured various cooking demonstrations on the commodity stage!



## MOOVIN' THRU THE MIDWAY 5K RUN

The Moovin' thru the Midway 5K run presented by Wells Fargo was on Saturday, September 3rd. Nearly 250 runners ran both virtually and in-person in our Fourth ever race. The race took place on the fairgrounds, and during their 3.1 mile flat run, runners took the journey through working areas of the Fairgrounds, passing through the big tent, by the amusement rides, and the carnival midway! Runners also got to watch as the fair was being prepared for the day's visitors and activities, and even encountered livestock near the finish line!



## FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS

A fan favorite tradition, Friday Night Flights, returned this year on Friday, September 2nd in the Michigan State Fair Beer Garden. Fairgoers enjoyed flights from local breweries and organizations, with live music entertainment on our Ascension Main Stage.



## GUERNSEY DAIRY

### ENDLESS CUP OF CHOCOLATE MILK

There is nothing more refreshing than a nice cold sip of a pint of chocolate milk from Guernsey Farms Dairy. At the Michigan State Fair, you can drink as much chocolate milk as you want after donating one dollar. All donations are given back to the Michigan State Fair Scholarship Program. This program benefits Rural and Urban Youth who exhibit their projects and apply for scholarships. Who doesn't love endless milk?!

## HOMEBREW COMPETITION

An exciting continuation of a tradition from the original Michigan State Fair occurred this year at the 2021 Michigan State Fair with the Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition. The judging of 150 Homebrews occurred on August 7th at the Suburban Collection Showplace. Awards were presented to the winning homebrewers during Friday, September 3rd at the "Friday Night Flights" Craft Beer Festival. The Winner of the Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition was Mark Kanczuzewski for his Fruit Lambic Cherry Kriek.



# Spotlight ACTIVATIONS

## PORK CHOP REVUE

This year we welcomed the Pork Chop Revue as a new attraction on our midway! Featured on America's Got Talent, Pork Chop Revue is an awesome display of some of the smartest swine in the county. These bodacious barnyard buddies presented a show featuring amazing stunts and laughable antics. Fairgoers laughed as they watched these bundles of bacon jump hurdles, waltz, and sing!



## ALL AMERICAN HIGH DIVE

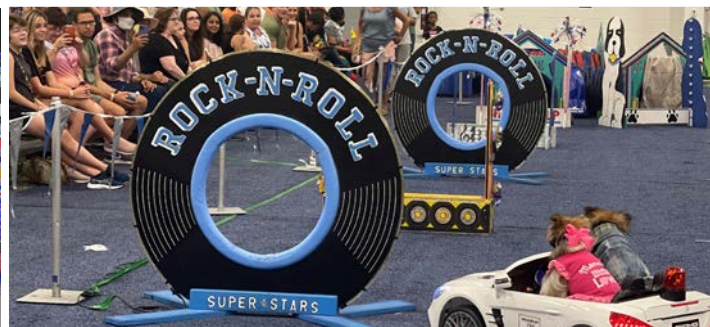
World Record Holder High Diver Dana Kunze's All American High Dive Show returned to the Michigan State Fair for a third year over Labor Day Weekend. Dana Kunze has been a professional High Diver since the age of 13 and was trained by a fellow World Record Holder, John Tobler. At the age of 16, Dana became the youngest professional diver in the world to dive off of the Famed Cliffs of Acapulco.

The dive was featured on ABC Television's Wide World of Sports and started a decade of appearances on sports programming. The All American High Dive act was a seamless, costumed, choreographed, fast paced and exciting production that featured World Champion and World Class Professional Divers, Gymnasts, and Stunt Men performing an assortment of Springboard and Tower Diving, Fire Diving, Comedy, Clown Diving, Tumbling, Trampoline, and High Dives from as high as 80 feet!



## COOL ZOO

Another newcomer for the 2022 Michigan State Fair was the Cool Zoo exhibit. Cool Zoo is a family-owned-and-operated wildlife experience with the mission of curating fundraisers, conservation, education, recreation, and research with animal ambassadors for all to enjoy. Fairgoers cheered on crab races, learned about animal habitats, and even met some exotic animals like a sloth and a baby kangaroo.



## ROCK-N-ROLL K-9'S

Back again for another great year was the Rock-N-Roll K-9's, who have been providing family fun for fairgoers for many years. Grand Prix racing, high jumping, flyball, musical mats, tricks, team relay racing, limbo competition, choreographed obedience routines, Scooby Says, and barrel racing are just a handful of tricks that these pups brought to the 2022 Michigan State Fair!

# Showcasing Michigan Talent ON THE ASCENSION MAIN STAGE



## MICHIGAN STATE FAIR SUPERSTAR COMPETITION

### WINNER JOE JARVIS

Joe Jarvis is a singer-songwriter from Northville, MI. His musical influences span far and wide throughout the decades and genres. He remembers his passion for music igniting at a young age, while sitting on his grandpa's lap as he shared his favorite tunes. Ever since, Joe has grown his musical style by taking the best of both old and new influences. His heart goes out to the hurting and broken people in these trying times, and wants to help bring hope and positivity into the world through his songs and performances. Joe's music is fueled by his faith, family and friends.

Joe has received awards for his songwriting and performances throughout his high school years, getting first place in fine arts competitions for the state of Michigan. Joe is currently majoring in Commercial Music at Liberty University.

### FIRST RUNNER UP THE GROWING ROOTS

Scott and Lisa Barry, also known as The Growing Roots, are both from the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. They met as music majors in college, went on to marry, and eventually turned their marriage and music over to Jesus. Their musical style is rootsy acoustic rock, creative lyrics and songwriting with a Biblical base, bluesy flavor, some soul, lots of harmony and an occasional twang. The unique melding of Scott's and Lisa's vastly different musical styles is a testament to God's goodness and an expression of oneness... with God and with each other. Parents of nine, Scott and Lisa homeschool their family in an old farmhouse in the country, where there's plenty of room to explore. When the kids go to bed, Mom and Dad "rock out" in the kitchen and hope the kids sleep through it. Their first EP, Take Me Down, was released in February 2018, and their second project, the Cornerstone EP, followed. They're itching to record their next project: a full-length album focusing on grief and hope.

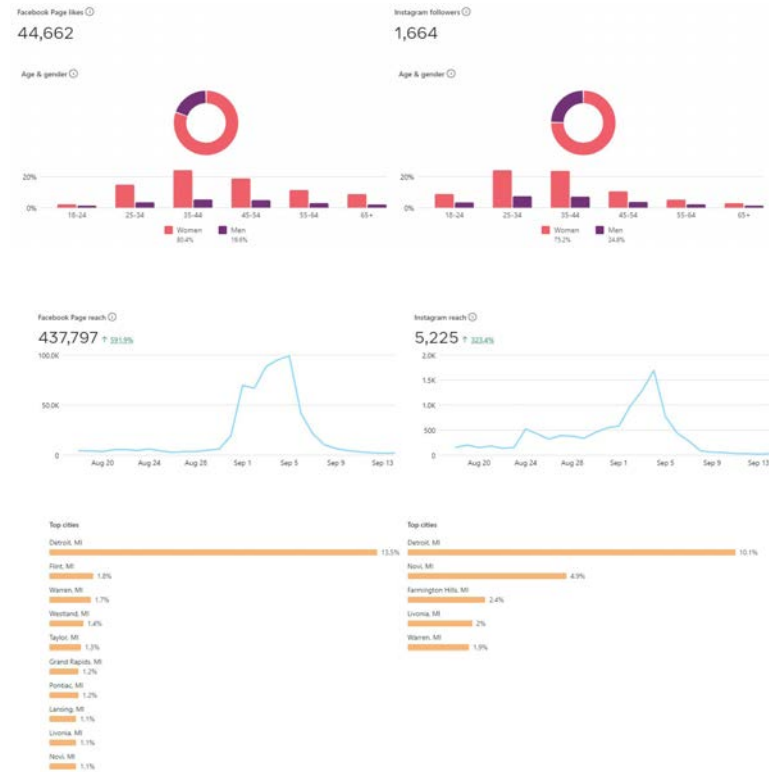
### HONORABLE MENTION BROTHERS OF FAITH

BOF (Brothers of Faith) are a gospel rap group from Detroit, Michigan. They are 3 brothers (Lb, Bam, and Tae) with a goal to make a difference in the world and help bring souls to Christ. They promote peace instead of violence, love instead of hate, and positivity instead of negativity. They want to show the world that there's another way.



# Social MEDIA

The Michigan State Fair social media community expanded significantly in 2021, now topping 46,000 fans as of Labor Day Weekend. The social media following for the fair continues to be active and highly engaged, centered upon the demographic of young women 25-49, and parents of young children.



# Traditional MEDIA

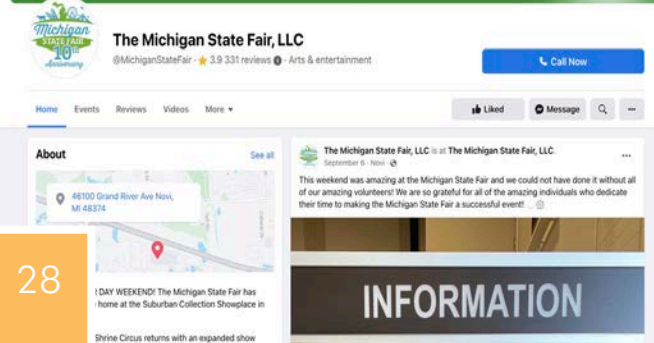
This year the Michigan State Fair received vast media coverage leading up to and during the record-breaking event. Reporters were on site almost every day of the fair with multiple live spots on Fox 2 WJBK, Channel 7 WXYZ, and Channel 4 WDIV. The coverage focused on the new entertainment features, the expanded Entertainment Pavilion encompassing the Ascension Main Stage, and all the traditional state fair fun with, of course, a review of how to receive discounted tickets while giving back to the community through the Kroger Gleaners Food Drive or the Versiti Blood Drive. In addition to the live coverage, the State Fair had a heavy populated run of televised ads airing on the stations listed above and Comcast Cable, as well as radio ads on the iHeart stations and Cumulus stations. This year we also utilized several digital and print advertisement options with these partners and a few more!



We reached over  
**83,000**

Unique individuals per day with our posts during the event

**47,735**  
TOTAL FOLLOWING



@MICHIGANSTATEFAIR



1,664  
Followers

@MISTATEFAIR1



1,320  
Followers

@THE MICHIGAN STATE FAIR, LLC



44,751  
Total Likes



# Fair Family

## OUR VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are critical to the success of the Michigan State Fair. Over 400 volunteers returned this year to help create Michigan's #1 Family Event. Our volunteers join us from all walks of life and are from a broad array of communities and organizations across the State of Michigan. We are grateful for the many volunteers who share their time and talents with us and we have been fortunate to have continued sponsorship and volunteer participation from Ascension St. John Hospital. Our long-standing partnership with the Detroit Moslem Shriners not only also expanded our volunteer base, but provided amazing entertainment with Shrine Circus performances throughout the Fair weekend. Volunteers assist in an array of areas throughout the fair, welcoming and directing crowds of visitors, assisting at the Shrine Circus, providing answers to questions at the information booth and working behind the scenes at the Community and Cultural and Main Stages. This year we added two new positions - strolling information and Guernsey Farms Dairy. With the strolling information, volunteers were given the ability to walk around the canvas of the fair while answering questions from fairgoers. At the Guernsey Farms Dairy booth, volunteers assisted in scooping ice cream, passing out pints of the famous Guernsey chocolate milk and overall assistance at the booth. Our volunteers are truly the shining face of the Fair and their smiles were mirrored by the smiles of our fairgoers, as they graciously thanked Michigan State Fair staff and volunteers for working so hard to keep a Michigan tradition alive.



### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Walter Slan has served on the Michigan State Fair Steering Committee for many and has actively been involved ever since. Walter is always willing to lend a helping hand and extends kindness and compassion to our patrons. His volunteerism and dedication is recognized, appreciated, valued, and cherished. The Michigan State Fair family and patrons thank you, and look forward to your continued support and work with the Michigan State Fair. Thank you



Volunteer Participation  
**376** TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

#### MARK PARTOGIAN & JOHN KOLB

Mark Partogian and John Kolb of Suburban Landscape Supply have supported the revival effort of the Michigan State Fair literally since the beginning. In the early stages when needing equipment and assistance to upgrade the grounds, to volunteering and co-chairing the 5k, and providing absolutely necessary equipment and crews to help rapidly clean up after the event. This year John Kolb went above and beyond when we found ourselves having difficulty transporting gates and equipment that we share with other fairs. John, in his usual way, stepped up and said no problem, provided the truck, lift and went and made the pickup and delivery himself. We could not have done this without them.



#### CHRIS & WILLIS PLANK

Willis and Chris Plank have been stalwart promoters of the Michigan State Fair since its beginning. Starting out as both rabbit and sheep exhibitors at the old Michigan State Fair, they were involved in most aspects of resurrecting the fair in Novi. Presently they are serving as Rabbit and Wool Superintendents on the Steering Committee, as well as supporting the Fair as exhibitors and putting up displays to help promote Agriculture in Michigan. Many generations of the Plank family have worked with the Fair, including Willis's parents and brothers, as well as their children Ethan and Caitlin. Their quiet work behind the scenes to help their departments run smoothly does not go unnoticed!

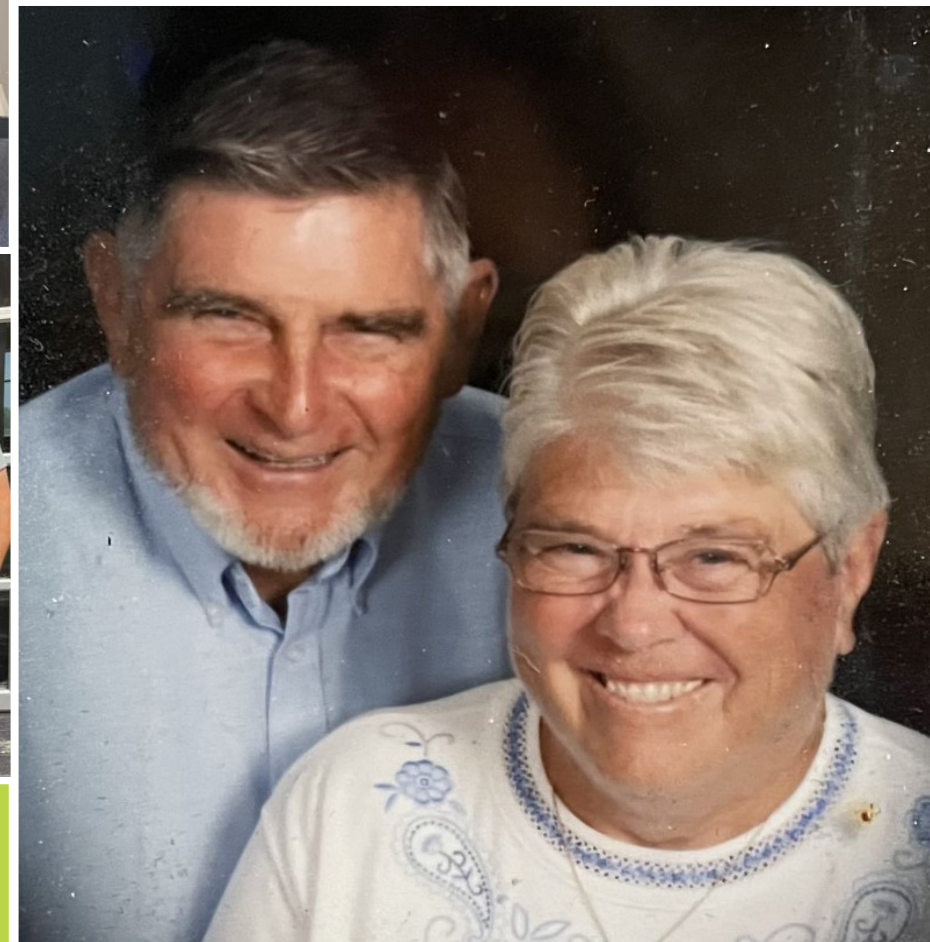


## In Memoriam

BRIAN PLANK



AL HARWOOD

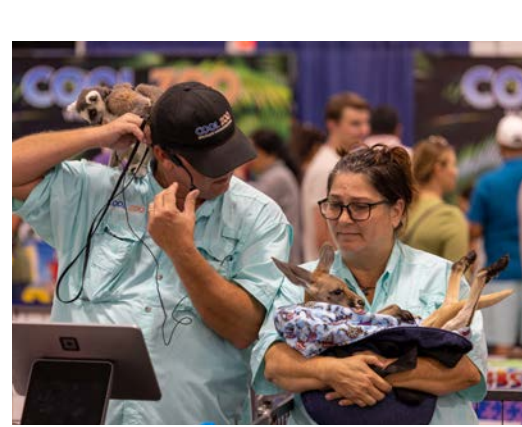


RAY AND JUDY SMITH

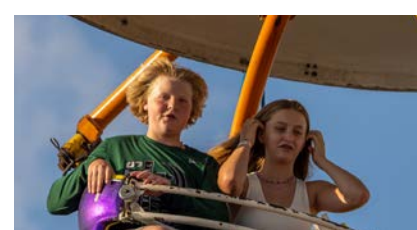
The Michigan State Fair lost some people that shared their time, talents, and treasures with us. We remember them and for their positive impact on the Michigan State Fair, the State of Michigan and touching our lives. We are all the better for their contributions and knowing them. Although these people are no longer here, their stories, contributions, and work will remain with us forever.







*Thank you!*  
 SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR  
 VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS  
 Jacob Courter, Don Kincheloe, Denise  
 Hillard Balon, and Charlie Nick who  
 helped capture the excitement of the  
 2022 Michigan State Fair!



# PLATINUM



# GOLD



# SILVER



# BRONZE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS