

CASS KICKSTART TO CAREERS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



APRIL, 2023. Vol 1.

A message from our President—

Greetings from the Cass Kickstart board as we publish our 1st quarterly newsletter! We have been busy seeking corporate donors for our program, and encouraging our K-3rd grade students to make deposits into their savings accounts. At Sam Adams Elementary we now have a “bank façade” in use, where students can go to make their deposits. We also have a “Let’s Finish Strong” Incentive through May. Join us in saving for your child’s future education!

Margie Yarger, Board President

Bank Façade Installed



Cass Kickstart Bank is open for business! The students are now able to walk up and make their deposits on First Thursday Deposit Days. “We believe the direct interaction is another touch point in getting the students into a monthly routine of saving. Especially for the younger grades,” according to Kickstart committee member Donna Warren. Students are given a sticker declaring “I DEPOSITED TODAY”.

Kindergarten Registration and Math Literacy Night

On March 28, Cass Kickstart helped Welcome the incoming Kindergarten students as well as



accepted and provided up to a \$5 match for all students making a deposit at the event. 13 students made deposits totaling \$135. Those students received an additional \$65 in matching funds deposited into their accounts. Members Margie Yarger and Becky Moore were at the event and were visited by Ranger.

Cass County 100+ Women Who Care

Becky Moore, Cass Kickstart committee member and member of Cass County 100+ Women Who Care presented our hardware and software needs to the January quarterly meeting of 100+ Women. Two other local not-for-profits were also presented that evening – the Dowagiac Area History Museum and Saint Francis Outreach Food Pantry. Cass Kickstart to Careers was selected! In addition to the local donation of the 100+ Women, this also qualifies Cass Kickstart for a 50% match from the Richard M Schulze Family Foundation.

Fundraising & Sustainability



A new local business, Hydro Aluminum USA, has pledged its commitment to the Cassopolis Community with an initial donation along with a 4-year pledge to Cass Kickstart. John Giczewski and Dylan Cromell presented the check to board members Margie Yarger and Jim Ward at the March meeting. Hydro shared that they are committed to the success of the community and fostering educational opportunities for the next generation of leaders. Additional local businesses pledging their support to Cass Kickstart include:

Midwest Energy and Communications
The Edward Lowe Foundation
Kemner Iott
Porkys

THANK YOU!

State of Michigan Grant

During 4th Quarter 2022 Cass Kickstart received word of a competitive grant available through CEDAM (Community Economic Development Association of Michigan). With very short notice, and help from our partners, we submitted a 7-page application totaling just under \$50,000 for much needed hardware and software, additional saving incentives, a Kickstart Fairy Program for those students not participating, a summer program, and series of videos and education events for parents and students, along with a few other creative ideas.

Unfortunately, in the end, there was little money available to support the 17 Michigan programs and our grant application was denied. We are being told that additional funding may become available and that our grant application was “creative” and “original” and will be “at the top of the pile” if and when additional funds are released.

“Let’s Finish Strong” Incentive

Throughout the year the students are offered various deposit incentives. As we near the completion of our 4th year, we have introduced our “Let’s Finish Strong” Incentive. Committee member Ruth Andrews shared, “the goal of the initiative is to get students and families saving on a regular basis. Studies have shown, it is not the amount of the deposit, but rather encouraging regular saving practices that can make the difference.

**KICKSTART TO CAREERS
“LET’S FINISH STRONG”
INCENTIVE**



Let’s finish the school year strong!

All students who deposit any amount into their Cass Kickstart account in all three months (March, April, and May) will be entered into a drawing.

The drawing will take place at the end of the month assembly in May. One winner will be chosen in each of the four grades, Kindergarten through 3rd Grade.

Winners will receive a \$100 Walmart gift certificate and a Cass Kickstart Pink Stuffed Pig.

Programming Support Needs –

- ❖ Source for color copies (500-1,000 per year)
- ❖ Video production

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