

CASS KICKSTART TO CAREERS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



APRIL, 2024. Vol 5.

A message from our President—

Spring is in the air, and our Cassopolis school students continue to put money into their savings accounts at Circle Federal Credit Union. Our first Thursday of each month, Deposit Day, has become a tradition at Sam Adams and many students are now in the habit of bringing in a contribution to their accounts on these days. They receive small incentives, including a sticker that says, "I Saved Today".

A recent grant from our statewide parent organization, CEDAM, has allowed us to purchase computers, printers and monitors which are dedicated to tracking Cass Kickstart donations. So, we no longer need to rely on our personal computers for recordkeeping of the growing student accounts. This is a significant help to our Treasurer, Becky Moore, who spends hours each month recording and balancing donations and bank accounts.

Please keep the Cass Kickstart donations coming in as we move toward the end of the school year. Student/family donations, our corporate partners and individual donors are crucial to the success of our student savers!

Happy Springtime!
Margie Yarger, Board President

Kickstart Bank Open for Business

Beginning in February Kickstart representatives set up the Kickstart Bank at Sam Adams to accept First Thursday Deposits.



The committee believes that the students get more benefit out of the program the more they are directly involved. By interacting with each student while they make their deposit, it reinforces that they are important and that saving and planning for their futures is a worthy goal. Each student making a deposit receives an "I Saved Today" sticker and a small treat.

The number of February students who deposited increased 53% over January depositors and March depositors increased 79% over January.

Hydro Informed of 2023 Progress



On February 6 representatives from Cass Kickstart were invited to update the Hydro team with the 2023 highlights of the Kickstart program.

Hydro strongly believes in the Kickstart program and the long-term effects on the community as a whole and has pledged \$20,000 over a 5-year period in support of the program.

Kickstart programs have been proven to increase the education level of a community providing additional benefits such as better overall health and a reduced crime rate. Cass Kickstart is fortunate to have community partnerships with Hydro and others.

Kickstart Offers Matching Dollars for Parent/Teacher Conference Deposits



Representatives from Cass Kickstart visited with parents and students in February at the Parent / Teacher Conference evening.

Up to a \$5 match was provided for all students making a deposit into their accounts at the event. Twenty-four students took advantage of this opportunity and a total of \$312 was deposited and \$155 in matching funds added.

4th Grade Reaches Milestone



As of the March 2024 Deposit Day our 2032 Graduates (4th Graders) achieved a new Milestone, total deposits of **\$10,037**. Keep up the good work, we believe in you!

10 Supporters / \$500 Per Year = \$5,000

In an effort to assure sustainability, Cass Kickstart is working to secure 10 additional supporters committed to providing \$500 per year for the future of our community. The following **local businesses have graciously stepped forward and added their support behind Cass Kickstart**. We still need to fill in number 7, 8, 9 and 10. If you or someone you know can help us to reach our goal, please contact one of the board members listed below.

1. **Diamond Lake Golf Course**
2. **Dussel Farm Market**
3. **Fedore Veterinary Services**
4. **Harding's Market**
5. **Porky's Party Place**
6. **South Pork Catering**
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Cass Kickstart Board Members

Ruth Andrews	269-519-4589
Morgan First	574-575-8498
Alisha McCoy	269-363-8358
Becky Moore	269-377-4379
Felomina Patton	312-402-1928
Carmen Peake	574-206-3484
Jim Ward	614-419-3381
Donna Warren	269-635-1464
Margie Yarger	269-445-3940

Monthly Board Meetings 2nd Monday 5pm
Cass District Library

We are Proud to Partner with....

Cass District Library
Cassopolis Public Schools
Circle Federal Credit Union
Southwestern Michigan College
Village of Cassopolis