

Michigan 4-H'er recognized for 4-H community service project by President Bush

On April 20, President George W. Bush presented Kacy Hermans, Midland County 4-H member, with the Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for her 4-H community service project.

"I can't really describe meeting the president. I know he's probably not going to remember me, but I will remember it for the rest of my life," Hermans said.

A PEYA winner was chosen from each of the 10 EPA regions. Hermans represented Region 5, which encom-

passes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The White House started the PEYA program in 1971; it has been directed by the EPA since then. Youth from each state and U.S. territory are encouraged to participate in the program, which promotes environmental awareness and encourages positive community involvement for individuals, school classes, summer camps, youth organizations and public interest groups.

For the award presentation in Washington, D.C., Hermans gave a five-minute speech and created

a display on her project—a rain garden she built at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland.

"Rain gardens or bioretention areas are cutting-edge environmental technology... As a student in Midland, Mich., and an environmentally aware person, this community service project was a perfect match for me," Hermans said.

She learned of the rain garden concept after speaking with Deb Rogers, Midland Conservation District executive director, but had to find a location to build the garden. The Chippewa Nature Center

"The CNC rain garden will be my legacy to Midland. It demonstrates my love of the environment and my commitment to community service."

—Kacy Hermans,
Midland County 4-H member

(CNC), an educational nature facility, provided the needed space.

"The CNC is a flat-roofed 1960s-style brick building. All of the storm water from the expansive roof and its numerous parking lots drained directly into the Pine River. This was considered acceptable building standards at the time," she said.

See Rain garden, page 6

Below: Midland County 4-H'er Kacy Hermans with her 4-H rain garden project at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Inset photo: Hermans with President George W. Bush at the Presidential Environmental Youth Award ceremony in Washington, D.C.



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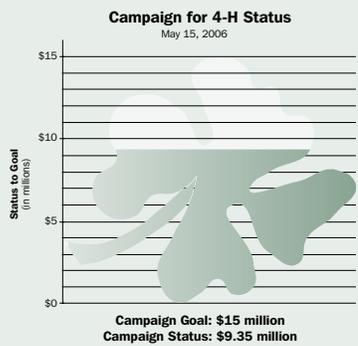
Do something special now to benefit 4-H for the future

When the 2006-07 fiscal year begins July 1, the Campaign for 4-H will be exactly 18 months from completion.

In the next 18 months, friends of 4-H can take the opportunity to do something special to make a long-term impact on state and county 4-H programs by:

- Establishing an endowment to provide annual support for 4-H'ers in your county.
- Helping grow the Kettunen Center endowment with a cash gift and/or estate gift.
- Sponsoring a new program to enhance the learning that 4-H provides for youth in that project or program.
- Making a gift that will grow the endowments so that the 4-H Children's Gardens are always in bloom.
- Making a gift to 4-H simply because you love 4-H and all that it has done and can do for Michigan's young people.

Whatever you would like to see sustained and made better for young people now and into the future through 4-H, consider the difference your personal gift can make.



Rocks establish Kettunen Center endowment

George and Victoria Rock of Cadillac have established a new endowment to support Kettunen Center.

The **John F. and Andrea E. Grix Endowment for Kettunen Center** will provide annual support for Kettunen Center operations and educational programs. This is the first endowment to provide this type of general support for the center.

The Rocks have been long-time supporters and friends of Kettunen Center. They were interested in providing perpetual support for Kettunen Center while at the same time providing honor and recognition to John and Andrea Grix, Kettunen Center director and educational program coordinator, respectively. Establishing an endowment named after the Grixes serves these purposes.

"I've worked with the Grixes since I retired. I grew up as a boy learning about Camp Kett in 4-H. . . and now we're at a phase in life where we can do things like this. We wanted to be sure there was a legacy for them," George Rock said.

"We think the world of the Grixes. . . I focus on where children are involved," Victoria Rock said. "People that reach out and help children have my first vote."

George and Victoria work together. "We're a team," he said. "She's always been a strong supporter of youth programs."

Victoria worked 21 years for the Midland school system and helped raise their three children. George, an Osceola County 4-H alumna and Michigan State University

graduate, worked 40 years for Dow Chemical Co., serving his last 15 years as business executive. After retiring, he became a venture capitalist partnering with MSU in technology. George attributes his success in life to both 4-H and MSU.

"4-H is a wonderful organization, and I have learned to appreciate it. Earlier in life I benefited from 4-H learning kindness and helpfulness," George said.

"MSU gave me a fine career. When I came out of the service, I not only got an education but a wife. Vicki worked while I went to school. MSU was one of my great milestones and happiest times of my life."

Leadership and philanthropy are nothing new for the Rocks.

George served in the Civil Air Patrol, on the Wexford County Soil and Water Conservation District Board,



George and Victoria Rock (above) recently established the John F. and Andrea E. Grix Endowment for Kettunen Center.

the Service Corps of Retired Executives, and as a member of the Rotary Clubs of both Midland and Cadillac for the past 30 years. Additionally, he was a founding contributor to the Mercy Hospital Endowment Fund and a co-founder of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy; and helped create the Cadillac Area Community Foundation Endowment.

Rawlings elected to 4-H Foundation board

Steven G. Rawlings, of Kingsley (Grand Traverse County), was elected to a three-year term on the Michigan 4-H Foundation board in April.



Steven Rawlings

Trustees are volunteers who manage foundation policies and operations and are community advocates for 4-H.

Rawlings is regional relations manager for DTE Energy corporate and government affairs in Traverse City. He manages regional and community affairs, corporate and political contributions, and philanthropic initiatives. He has been with DTE Energy since 1999. He is a Grand Traverse County 4-H alumnus and a graduate of Northwestern Michigan College, Ferris State University and Michigan State University.

Rawlings serves on the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation board and the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance. He has also served as a Michigan FFA Foundation trustee and former village of Kingsley council trustee.

County grants promote innovative 4-H programs

Each year the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees provides grants for county 4-H initiatives. For 2005-06 the foundation awarded \$2,500 to 4-H groups to carry out innovative programs.

Four \$500 **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants** were awarded for 2005-06, funded by gifts to the Michigan 4-H Foundation for the Michigan 4-H Legacy Fund Endowment.

Projects funded include:

Gratiot County's Project 4-H Winter Camp is an annual overnight camp for 9- to 12-year-olds in Gratiot County. The camp allows youth to participate in a community service project and hands-on activities, and to interact with peers and adult role models from the community.

Seven high school youth were selected for the **St. Joseph County 4-H Citizenship Academy**, a hands-on government and citizenship education initiative. The youth identified public issues and learned how citizens work with the government to accomplish public objectives to meet community needs. The youth met out of school for six weeks to learn about their local government and then traveled to the 4-H Capitol Experience conference in Lansing for four days.

The Iosco County 4-H Teen Club is a county wide initiative to keep and increase teen involvement in 4-H. The club meets regularly with the teens responsible for planning the business meeting and activity. The club promotes state 4-H events and

builds leadership, volunteer and social skills.

Supersitters Babysitting Basics of Mecosta and Osceola counties is an eight-hour clinic (split over three sessions) that teaches youth the ins and outs of babysitting. The clinic, held in both Mecosta and Osceola counties, emphasizes the safety of children and safety for the sitters. The youth participate in discussions about a variety of scenarios and are introduced to local EMS, law enforcement, medical and volunteer firefighter personnel to familiarize youth with emergency staff members.

A new grant was also offered this year, the **Ousterhout 4-H Regional Teen Leadership Grant** funded by the Turner-Ousterhout Memorial endowment funds.

The \$500 regional leadership grant helped fund the **Southwest Michigan Regional Leader Meet** March 25 at the Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Mich. The leader meet focused on leadership learning opportunities for adult and teen 4-H leaders from Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Shiawassee and Van Buren counties.

More than 60 4-H volunteers attended the leader meet; 17 were teen leaders. Session topics included club development, diversity, international programs, global and cultural education, Cloverbud programs and 4-H history.



The Southwest Regional Leader Meet March 25 at the Kellogg Biological Station was made possible by the Ousterhout 4-H Regional Teen Leadership Grant, a new grant offered for 2005-06 funded by the Turner-Ousterhout Memorial endowment funds. Leadership learning opportunities were offered to adult and teen 4-H leaders.

Calendar

June 20-25—Intergenerational Elderhostel Program at Kettunen Center. Grandparents & grandchildren enjoy educational learning opportunities together. Call (231) 829-3421 for details.

June 21-23—4-H Exploration Days. This annual event brings over 2,000 young people to MSU. The State 4-H Awards assembly will be June 22. For details, visit 4-H online at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html>.

June 22—4-H Emerald Clover Society class of 2006 induction ceremony at the MSU Kellogg Center. Make reservations by June 9 at (517) 353-6692 or online at www.mi4hfdtn.org.

July 9-12—4-H Learning Science through the Arts Camp at Kettunen Center. This camp combines art and science for youth 9 to 14 years old. 4-H and non-4-H youth can attend. Register by June 30. Call (231) 829-3421 for details.

August 4—MSU Garden Day. Featuring nationally known speakers and a chance to participate in a variety of garden workshops at the MSU Horticulture Gardens. For details, visit www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/GardenDay2006.htm or call (517) 355-5191, ext. 339.

August 24—Deadline for ordering an inscribed brick for fall placement in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden and/or Kettunen Center. A gift of \$250 to the Michigan 4-H Foundation entitles you to make this permanent memorial or tribute. Inscribed brick forms are available at www.mi4hfdtn.org/brick.html or by calling (517) 353-6692.

October 6—Michigan 4-H Foundation annual meeting at Michigan State University.

4-H alumni to be inducted into 4-H Emerald Clover Society June 22

Ten outstanding Michigan 4-H alumni will be inducted into the Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society June 22.

The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors former Michigan 4-H members whose professional leadership and community service reflect the ultimate outcome of 4-H membership — extraordinary use of an individual's head, heart, hands and health to make communities, the country and the world better places in which to live. This recognition is provided by Michigan 4-H Youth Development with support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

The 2006 inductees are: Keith Brown, of Jonesville; Sheila Burkhardt, Fowlerville; Janice Harwood, Live Oaks, Calif.; Betty James, Lansing; Theodore Leipprandt, Pigeon; Sally Ann Narhi, Pelkie; Howard Pennington, Adrian; Helen Simon, Muir; Jane Thocher, Hart; and Janet Wendland, Saginaw.

Honorees receive a recognition award, an exclusive Emerald Clover Society membership pin, individual biographical recognition on the society's Web site and the society's wall at Kettunen Center.

The 2006 4-H Emerald Clover Society induction ceremony is Thurs., June 22 at the Michigan State University Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The ceremony begins at 5 p.m. with dinner afterward. **Michigan Sen. Patricia Birkholz** (24th District) will serve as the mistress of ceremonies.

Reservations for the induction ceremony and dinner are \$100/person. Call the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692 or visit the foundation online at www.mi4hfdtn.org to make reservations with your MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card on or before **June 9, 2006**. You can also make checks payable to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Reservations include a tax-deductible gift to support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society members are inducted every two years. The inaugural class of 62 members was inducted in 2002 in honor of the national 4-H centennial. The second class of 16 members was inducted in 2004. Nominations for the 2008 class will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2008. For more information on the 4-H Emerald Clover Society and its 88 members, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs.



Congratulations to the 2006 4-H Emerald Clover Society members:

Keith L. Brown
Hillsdale County 4-H'er

Sheila M. Burkhardt
Kent County 4-H'er

Janice O. Harwood
Washtenaw County 4-H'er

Betty L. James
St. Joseph County 4-H'er

Theodore S. Leipprandt
Huron County 4-H'er

Sally Ann Narhi
Baraga County 4-H'er

Howard C. Pennington
Lenawee County 4-H'er

Helen M. Simon
Ionia County 4-H'er

Jane L. Thocher
Oakland County 4-H'er

Janet R. Wendland
Bay County 4-H'er

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

Memorial and tribute gifts are charitable contributions that support Michigan 4-H. Memorial gifts are made in memory and tribute gifts in honor of special people. If you or your group would like to make a memorial or tribute gift, please complete this form and send it with your gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Gifts can also be made by calling the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692 or online at www.mi4hfdtn.org.

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ In loving memory of _____ In tribute to _____

Send announcement of this gift to: Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Sent by: (Donor's Name) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County _____ Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

4-H affiliation: 4-H alumnus, 4-H volunteer, 4-H member, friend of 4-H, 4-H parent, 4-H staff member.

Payment by:

Check (Make checks payable to Michigan 4-H Foundation.)

Please charge my MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card. Name (as is on card) _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date (mm/yy) _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Michigan 4-H Foundation, 4700 S. Hagadorn Rd., Suite 220, East Lansing, MI 48823-5399

MICS 2751

Kettunen Center: a place to learn teamwork

Kettunen Center is the *natural* place for 4-H learning. It's also a place to learn teamwork.

Genesee County's Student Council Leadership 4-H Club of Center Academy School in Flint experienced firsthand the benefits of Kettunen Center's TREE (Teams Recreational Environmental Experience) program.

"We market TREE with our programs and incorporate it into a group's agenda. It might take anywhere from one to four hours of team-building activities for a group," said Andrea Grix, Kettunen Center educational program coordinator.

The TREE Program is a team-building/low-ropes initiatives program at Kettunen Center designed for ages 10 years and older. The indoor and outdoor activities and initiatives are designed to help the group focus on team skills such as communication, trust, leadership, fellowship, self-esteem, decision making and problem solving.

Center Academy School teaches students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Tony Watson, Genesee County 4-H youth educator, took the student leadership group to Kettunen Center for team-building activities.

"The training at Kettunen Center allowed the kids and staff to get to know each other better. The staff also felt empowered," Watson said.

"I recommend the TREE program 100 percent," Watson said. "As a result, it totally started changing the school. It was re-

ally worthwhile and was money well-spent."

The Student Council Leadership 4-H Club began about three years ago. Watson partnered with Center Academy School to find out what should be done to improve the school. To do this Watson asked the school's students and faculty about what they perceived as the needs of the school.

Feedback included suggestions to improve the lunch menu and to add trash cans outside of the school to minimize littering.

A focus group, which evolved into the leadership club, was formed to develop a plan to implement these and other suggested changes. Students had the opportunity to volunteer to be a part of the group. Other students were selected by their peers to represent them through mock campaigns and elections.

Rain garden

continued from page 1

"All of the storm water from the maintenance building roof and the surrounding sidewalks now drain into the new rain garden. Anyone entering the CNC Visitor Center will have a perfect educational opportunity to learn about rain gardens just by walking past it. My goal was to make the garden so attractive that its beauty would generate enthusiasm."

Hermans wrote grants and secured donations of money, labor and equipment for the project from local companies. It took almost six months from Hermans' first class



Genesee County's Student Council Leadership 4-H Club of Center Academy School in Flint experienced firsthand the benefits of Kettunen Center's TREE (Teams Recreational Environmental Experience) program.

"To some degree the group has become systemic and has taken a shape of its own," Watson said.

The group has about 20 to 25 elementary and middle school-aged youth and about 30 staff members. As a result of the group, a variety of after-school programs have flourished, including plant

science, horse programs and a job skill development program focusing on financial literacy. Character education is now taught in some classrooms.

"Some youth joined 4-H prior to the leadership group, but as a result of the group we were able to start some new 4-H clubs," Watson said.

on rain gardens until the garden was completed last August.

"One of my goals for this project was for it to be the first of many rain gardens in this area and to promote them in Michigan... Michigan Sen. Tony Stamas visited the CNC to see firsthand the benefits for our state. Several city commissioners and council members have also toured the garden area. We hope that eventually tax benefits will be available for building rain gardens," Hermans said.

Hermans' interest in the environment stemmed from her involvement in the Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council

(M4-HYCC), a statewide 4-H group in which youth voice their opinions on current environmental issues to state legislators.

Hermans is a senior at Herbert Henry Dow High School in Midland. She plans to attend Michigan Technological University this fall to study environmental engineering.

"The CNC rain garden will be my legacy to Midland. It demonstrates my love of the environment and my commitment to community service."

Community service is a citizenship, leadership and service priority for the *Campaign for 4-H*.

Children's Gardens docents

Volunteers make garden programs possible

The Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens rely on volunteers who give something very special to the gardens — their time.

These volunteers, referred to as docents, may be retired teachers, plant enthusiasts or anyone who naturally loves to garden.

Docents aren't merely garden tour guides, however. They lead most of the butterfly programs, which include both classroom and garden components, and also assist with Garden Discovery and Seeds of Science lessons.

"We have some fabulous people that have some great things to offer," said Elizabeth Driscoll, 4-H Children's Gardens educational coordinator. "When we have groups come to the gardens, the docents interpret the gardens and stories to the children."

Two of these "fabulous people" are Bill Price and Marlene Wesselman, both of Okemos.

Price is retired from the MSU division of housing and food services, and this is his seventh year

helping in the gardens. Wesselman is a retired Davenport University professor of home economics and biology. She has been volunteering in the gardens for over 10 years.

"I love people and plants!" Wesselman said. "My favorite part is getting them to have a butterfly land on their finger and get them to identify the parts of a butterfly and enjoy it close up."

"It's just fun and is a good time. It's great to see the thrill on a child's face and is exciting to watch how they react," Price said. "I like working with people and really appreciate the staff who make it really rewarding."

"This is something totally different than what I was used to. At first I was out of my comfort zone, but now I'm used to it. It's nice to have some knowledge and share it with others," Price said.

There are about 30 4-H Children's Gardens docents, with an average of two or three docents helping in the gardens at a time.



4-H Children's Gardens docent Marlene Wesselman teaches the parts of a plant and the life cycle of a butterfly to Mrs. Ross's first grade class from Horizon Elementary School of Holt.

4-H Children's Gardens 2006 Spring & Summer Schedule

Garden Discovery Days

A variety of one-day programs are offered this season in the gardens:

- **Plant Sale**—June 3 from 9 am–2 pm, free admission.
- **Mad Hatter Tea Party**—June 15 at 10:30 am sharp, free.*
- **Father's Day**—June 18 from 10 am–2 pm, free.
- **Peter Rabbit Day**—June 28 from 10 am–noon, \$5/child.
- **Feathered Friends Day**—July 6 from 10 am–noon, \$5/child.
- **Bug Day**—July 20 from 10 am–noon, \$5/child.
- **Performing Plants Day**—Aug. 10 from 10 am–noon, \$5/child.
- **Picnic by the Pond**—Aug. 17 at 11:30 am, free.*
- **Harvest Festival**—Sept. 16 from 10 am–noon, \$5/child.

Just for Garden Lovers!

Garden Work Party—June 10, July 8, and Oct. 7 from 9 am–noon, free. All are welcome to help out in the garden on the second Saturday of the month. Learn to weed, edge, plant and meet new friends!

Garden Walk Wednesdays —June 14 at noon, June 21 at 7 pm, June 28 at 2 pm, July 12 at noon, July 26 at 3 pm, Aug. 2 at 9:30 pm, Aug. 9 at noon and Aug. 16 at 9 am, free.* Enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the 4-H Children's Gardens.

Music Mondays in the Garden—June 26, July 10, and Aug. 7 from 12–1 pm, free.* A new, casual concert series in the garden featuring local musicians. Bring a brown bag lunch to eat while listening to tunes (and dancing if you wish)!

Splendid Summer Series

Stories in the Garden—June 22 from 7–8:30 pm, July 19 from 10–11:30 am and Aug. 9 from 7–8:30 pm, free.* Teens read to children.

Kid Curator—July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1 from 10 am – noon. \$25 for all four weeks or \$7/session. Ages 8 and up learn about plant science with Dr. Norm.

Garden Chefs—July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1 from 12–2:30 pm. \$25 for four weeks, or \$7/session. Ages 7 and up learn about edible plants from the garden.

Camp Monet—Aug. 7–9 from 9:30 am – noon. \$24 for all three days or \$9/session. Campers aged 7 and up use the garden as inspiration for art projects.

CG Horticulture—June 27, July 21, Aug. 16, Sept. 16, Oct. 7 and Nov. 18 from 10 am–noon, \$5/teen/session. A new series for ages 11 and up to explore the world of plants.

Stories for Sprouts & Seedlings—June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19 from 10–11 am, free.* A new program for children aged 2-4 to experience gardening through stories and hands-on projects.

To Register for Events

Register online at <http://4hgarden.msu.edu/calendar> or call the 4-H Children's Gardens at (517) 256-9915. All event registration fees include one parking token.

Parking

*There is a \$3 parking fee per vehicle, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 6 pm. Parking tokens are available at the parking booth.

For the complete schedule with event descriptions and details, visit <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org>.

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URL: <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org>

Vantage is published three times per year for members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The foundation uses funds solicited from individuals and organizations to support 4-H youth development programs and train volunteer 4-H leaders throughout Michigan. The foundation also owns and operates Kettunen Center, the state 4-H leadership training facility in Tustin.

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is licensed to solicit charitable gifts by the state of Michigan (MICS 2751). A report containing percentages of charitable contributions expended on program administration and fundraising is available by request.

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In the News

Trustee Holoman appointed to Mentor Michigan Leadership Council

Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee **Smallwood Holoman, Jr.**, was selected to serve on the Mentor Michigan Leadership Council, a statewide mentoring initiative headed by First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern to raise awareness about the need for mentors and the benefits associated with mentoring. The council, created by Gov. Granholm, will also advise the governor and the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) on the development and implementation of Mentor Michigan.

Hillsdale County 4-H'er selected as CWF Ambassador

Hillsdale County 4-H'er **Nikki Shaw** of Litchfield was chosen to be one of the first-ever Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) ambassadors. CWF is a weeklong

national 4-H leadership program held in Washington, D.C. each summer. Shaw attended a three-day planning retreat at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center last October and will promote CWF at 4-H staff conferences and assist with CWF this summer.

Great Lakes Camp director receives national 4-H volunteer award

Heather Vandenburg received the National 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Volunteer Award at the National 4-H Volunteer Leader Recognition Program Awards Reception in March. Vandenburg is the current director and a former staff member, counselor and camper of the Michigan 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp.

Mawby receives "Man of the Year" award

Former state 4-H leader and Emerald Clover Society member **Russell Mawby** was named Man of the Year by Scene magazine of Battle Creek in February. Each year the magazine recognizes a community leader.

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CORPORATE Clover Club

Thanks to our Corporate Clover Club members!

The Corporate Clover Club is an annual giving program recognizing corporate and business gifts of \$1,000 and above.

Between Feb. 1 and May 12, 2006, corporate gifts were received from:

- American Dairy Association of Michigan
- Dow Chemical Co. Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Michigan Milk Producers Association

