



The Cook Family Foundation

Fall 2026

PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

OUR VALUES

Have Integrity
Be Inclusive
Make True Impact

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Current UM-Ann Arbor students at the Cook Scholars' celebration in April 2026

Cook Scholars at UM-Ann Arbor

Helping Local Students Thrive at Michigan

Under the direction of Program Manager Jeri Preston, the 2025-26 inaugural year of the Cook Scholars program concluded with significant success. Conceived and funded by the Foundation to help students from the Shiawassee area navigate the complexities of the university experience, the program is now in full swing.

In its first full year, the student group (or cohort) included 94 students across 19 U-M schools and colleges. Cohort activities included study nights, financial aid information sessions, social gatherings, and more. Moving through a challenging degree program alongside peers with the same background fosters deep networking, psychological safety, and a distinct sense of community.

Beyond the community nature of the Cook Scholars, the program focuses on a personal touch for each and every Shiawassee area student. The program manager, along with trained upper level student navigators, work within the campus framework to provide high-quality, tailored support: from getting connected to counseling and psychological services, finding undergraduate research opportunities, connecting to academic support resources, to joining student extracurricular organizations.

For more information about the Cook Scholars program at UM-Ann Arbor, visit
<https://campusinfo.umich.edu/cook-scholars>.

“The Foundation helped me find a research lab that has catapulted my educational career. I hope to help show members of the Cook Scholars cohort that you can be connected to new groups at Michigan while also relying on a strong community from home.”

– Marisa Rose,
Cohort Class of 2023
Cook Scholars Advisory Board
2026-2027



On Their Way to Ann Arbor

This fall, 20 of the Leaders and Best from nine area high schools are enrolled at UM-Ann Arbor.

Byron

Mason Davis

Chesaning

Olivia Kovick

Corunna

Sarabdil Chauhan

Zachary Plowman

Gracie TerMeer

Durand

Madison Dennis

Brayden Joslin

Chloe Munson

Carver Purdy

Laingsburg

Cody Cataline

Morrice

Parker Mockeridge

Ovid-Elsie

Arthur Carie

Jackson Custer

Owosso

Ellen DeLong

Danica Dwyer

Tyler Jurhs

Owen Skarich

Sarina Shannon

Perry

Autumn Pavlica

Chandler Webb

On Their Way to Flint

This year, 15 students from these seven area schools are starting their U-M education in Flint.

Chesaning

Addison Ostrander

Laingsburg

Lucas Shastal

Perry

Addyson Lampron

Durand

Asa Alderman

Brock Randall

Gwendolyn Bell

Taylor Carlson

Bailey Martin

Benjamin Mrazik

Kirra Shepard

Lorraine Smith

Brandon Watson

Linden

Brenden Johnson

New Lothrop

Stone Elkins

Spring Vale Academy

Peter Kokkinakos



Cook Family Foundation Co-Executive Director Tom Cook (left) and University of Michigan's Tim McKay (right) stand with top scholarship recipients (left to right) Olivia Kovick and Madison Dennis.

Foundation's Scholarship Recipients Continue to Carry on Our Legacy of Excellence

The Cook Family Foundation is deeply gratified to support thirty-five exceptional Shiawassee-area scholarship recipients embarking on life-altering academic careers at the University of Michigan this fall.

Madison Dennis of Durand was awarded the **Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship**, one of the highest accolades in the greater Shiawassee County region. This scholarship, endowed after the passing of Bruce and Jacqueline Cook, provides four years of undergraduate tuition to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, with a value exceeding \$75,000. Madison is the daughter of John and Jennifer Dennis and was the valedictorian of her class at Durand Area High School. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in neuroscience at UM-Ann Arbor, followed by a PhD in the same field, with an ultimate goal of becoming a doctor and researcher in neurology.

Olivia Kovick of Chesaning was recognized as the winner of the **Donald Cook Scholarship**, given in recognition of the Foundation's original benefactor. This scholarship, endowed by the Cook Family Foundation, is awarded by the University of Michigan to a student attending the College of Literature, Science, & the Arts and is worth \$20,000. Olivia was ranked fourth in her class at Chesaning Union High School and is the daughter of Jarod and Brandi Kovick. Her career goal is to become a college professor, but she is still exploring exactly which area of interest she'll pursue.



Shiawassee Scholars – Opening Educational Possibilities to Area Ninth Graders

Even with encouragement from parents and teachers, intelligent students in a rural county can sometimes struggle to envision themselves as successful college students.

The Shiawassee Scholars program, a partnership between the Cook Family Foundation and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (SRES D), provides motivation, resources, and support to academically talented high school students to help them reach their full potential. The Program provides opportunities and experiences related to accelerated academic programs, college campus visits, and information on college and career planning. Since its inception in 1999, over 1,300 Scholars have been recognized, many of whom have gone on to pursue higher education, careers, and opportunities in diverse fields.



Placing in the top of the county scholastically based on the PSAT8 (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test for 8th graders), we are proud to congratulate the Shiawassee Scholars Class of 2019:

Byron

Izak Echlin
Sophie Osborn

Corunna

Abigail Bentler
Cassidy Braid
Taylor Braun
Claire Chunko
Sabrina Cooper
Charlie Cunningham
Elizabeth Ford
Mary Ellen Marshall
Hector Meganck
Mary Newcom
Kadin Reed
Tyler Sweet
Molly Vaele
Robert Wyatt III

Durand

Ash Gilmore
Jeremy Halleaux
Julianne Newman
Boston Perrin
Mairik Wolfin

Laingsburg

Eliza Aldrich
Sora Dombroski
Mason Kent
Sophia Lapinski
Kaylyn Lefevre
Camden McGee
Adeline Wright

Morrice

Jett Andries
Roselyn LaBlanc
Amara Tribley

Owosso

Gabbiellah Becker-Young
Julian Edgington
Bryce Gute
Blake Huff
Max Jenkinson
Everett Little
Ella Parker

Perry

Logan Browne
Addilynn Charters
Zackary Eller
Addisyn Freed
Addison Koc
Reid Schneider
Katelyn White

New Lothrop

Olivia Costie
Landon Kuhlman
Elizabeth Ziola

For more information about Shiawassee Scholars, contact Kelsee Gewirtz at the SRES D at 989.743.3471 ext. 2602 or email her at gewirtz@sresd.org.



The
**Cook Family
Foundation**

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2026 - The Year of the Nonprofit



Look for Us
on Facebook
and Instagram!

2026 – The Year of the Nonprofit

Nonprofits are essential – to the economy, to communities, and to individuals.

Nonprofits exist to do things that government and business can't, won't, and shouldn't. They fill the gaps that are left open. They exist for a fundamental purpose other than turning a profit and satisfying shareholders. There will never be profit in a local Humane Society – but that doesn't mean that it shouldn't exist.

There has been a reduction in funding to nonprofits because federal grant funding is less available and individual donations are also down. More opportunities are needed to bring nonprofits together and create growth. Their presence exists to serve food to those that are hungry, provide artistic entertainment, connect seniors with important resources, help survivors of domestic violence, lead camps for children, and so much more.

To highlight vital entities, a collaboration of local nonprofit leaders has designated 2026 as "The Year of the Nonprofit" in Shiawassee County. Through a number of social media posts, articles, and public gatherings over the year, this collaborative wants to say what too often goes unsaid.



The Faces of a Landmark Year: Shiawassee County's Nonprofit Leaders Bridging Our Community

The ultimate goal is to uplift our nonprofits and educate our community on their importance. Learn more about this initiative on our "Year of the Nonprofit" tab on the Foundation's website.

Appreciate what local nonprofits do today. Visit www.nonprofitsgetitdone.org to learn how you can support the volunteers and staff who make communities stronger.

