



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome! We Believe In

TEACHING people how to care for Torch Lake

With your help, we are reaching out to Teach, Conserve, and Connect. We've developed simple, easy to use materials, accessible at the Torch Conservation Center Artisan Market and online.

- Tips for a lake-friendly lifestyle to Keep Torch Clean!
- Information on easy lawn-care habits to Keep Torch Clear!
- Do-it-yourself landscaping projects to Keep Torch Blue!

CONSERVING natural beauty, fish and wildlife

We offer information on:

- Identifying and planting native species
- Getting rid of invasive species
- Providing individual consultation to discuss steps you can take to conserve your property

CONNECTING people, land and water

We created the Torch Conservation Center Artisan Market as a center for all things Torch Lake. We're excited for our 12th summer in Alden with new and exciting things to come.

- Educational displays and materials about the watershed
- A variety of works by local artists
- Lake gifts for family and friends
- Friendly, knowledgeable docents to answer your questions

<< Cover photo courtesy of Jim Anderson

Envisioning the Future

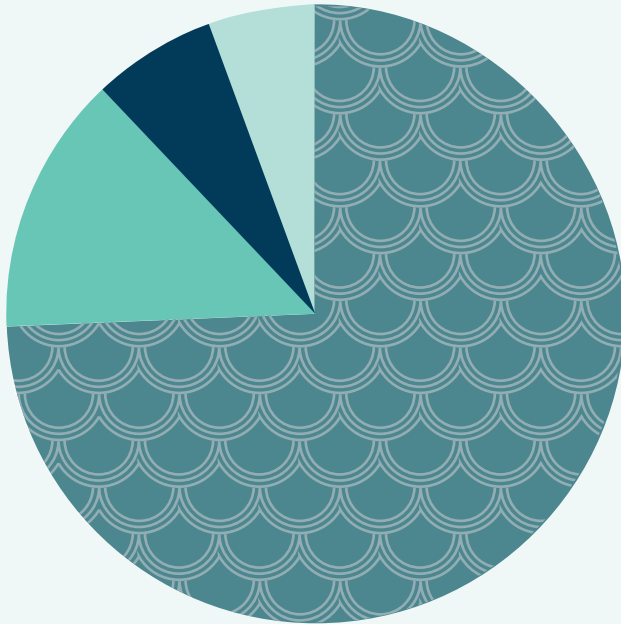
We're growing and supporting a well-informed community of landowners, businesses, and visitors working together to ensure safe drinking water, healthy local food and fish to eat, and clean water for swimming and boating in Torch Lake.





As our knowledge of this amazing place deepens, so does our commitment to *Keep Torch Lake BLUE...Forever!*

conservetorch.org



Our Impact



-  Approximately 262,400 Facebook Views
-  18,000 Website Users and 1,120 email subscribers
-  Approximately 11,100 Instagram Views
-  Approximately 10,303 Gallery Visitors

Serving Our Community

TRUE BLUE Mission

Our mission is to serve our community by promoting stewardship in the Torch Lake Watershed. We love chatting with you, answering your questions and listening to your concerns about the future of this beautiful place. We enjoy creating new ways to meet your needs.

Torch Conservation Center Artisan Market

The “One-stop Shop” for all things Torch Lake. Stop in and pick up free materials to keep toxins out of our water. Recipe cards for lake-friendly cleaning and gardening make it easy to Care for Torch!

TRUE BLUE News

Sent to your Inbox every month with a simple tip for lake-friendly living. We explain the science behind the tip and provide a few steps you can take to Keep Torch Lake BLUE!



CONSERVETORCH.ORG is your online resource for information about Torch Lake. It's packed with information about ways to conserve the land, water and natural resources in the Torch Lake Watershed. Our Facebook and Instagram accounts feature beautiful photos and connects you to key pages on our website.



Strengthening Local Partnerships

We have engaged a total of 68 Community Partners

Collaboration is the key to a strong community. We're proud to partner with local businesses, landowners (both on and off the lake) and nonprofit organizations to Care for Torch!

MSU Master Gardeners:

Karen Swanson our MSU Master Gardener and Louise Austin our experienced gardener replaced many of the non-native plants with pollinators. Their tireless work kept our gardens beautiful.

Torch Lake Protection Alliance:

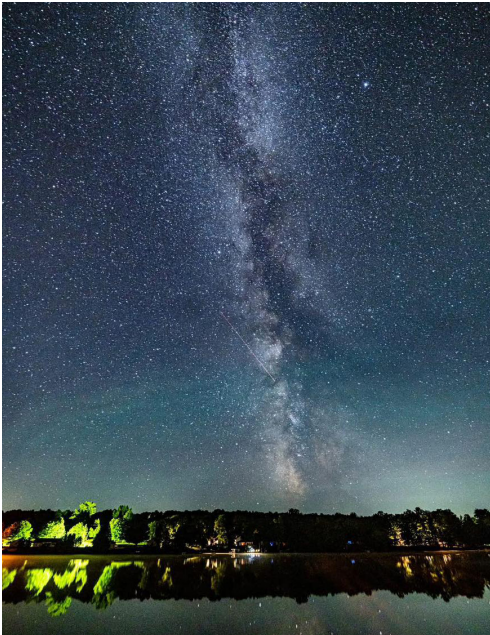
Two TCC volunteers continue to serve on the project team for the Torch Lake Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Project being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Grass River Natural Area:

We promoted and presented three forest stewardship workshops for landowners in 2025.

Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Team WPIT:

We meet regularly with over 20 other nonprofits and government reps to implement the plan.



Working with Our Regional Partners

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy organization has had the Chain-of-Lakes as an area of focus from its founding 35 years ago. As the largest lake, Torch receives a good share of their attention. Working together since TCC began in 2013, both groups recognize the need to protect the watershed in order to protect the lake water.

The GTRLC and TCC have complementary goals, with the former looking at large tracts of land and the latter focusing on smaller, local parcels. While TCC works to educate individual land owners in the community, the main goal of the GTRLC is to protect large tracts of forests, farmlands, and shoreline in the area.

The two organizations are mutually supportive. Recently, TCC donated to the larger group's Davock Project, which aims to preserve 175 acres on the east side



Marissa Garrock, Director of Development GTRLC, Theresa Schurman, Executive Director TCC, Glen Chown, Executive Director GTRLC, Jan Ducsak, Treasurer TCC

of Torch. The GTRLC continues to share information with TCC in regard to long range projects that affect the lake. Ideally,

those who care about Torch would support both organizations.

Community Partners

Thank you community partners who help us all “Care for Torch.”

Alden Outfitters
Alden Bar
Antrim Conservation District
Barker Creek Nursery
Bellaire Chamber
Birdsfoot Native Plant Nursery
Blue Ribbon Events
Blue Star Landscape Supply
Brownwood Acres Foods
Butch’s Tackle and Marine
Cayer Gardens
Central Lake Chamber
Cherry Lake Publishing
Claige Properties
Cottage Lavender
Creative Characters
620 Deep
Dockside Torch Lake
Downtown Alden Business Association
Durkie Heating and Cooling
Elk Rapids Chamber
Elk Rapids Garden Club
Elk Skegemog Lakes Assoc.

Ethanology
Fisher Insurance Agency
Mark Forton
Friends of Clam Lake
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Grass River Natural Area
Gurr Farm
Habitat Landscape, Inc.
Helena Township
Helena Township Historical Society
Hidden in the Mitten
Higgins Store
Horizon Books
Inacom Computer Center
Steve Jessmore
King Orchards
Lakeside Properties
Land Information Access Association
Mezinets Design
Michigan Maps Online
Muffin Tin
Naturescape Nursery
Northwest Michigan Health Department
Old Mission Investment Co.
Oryana Food Cooperative

Paddle Antrim
The Pear Tree
Pine Hill Nursery
Pro Image Design, Inc.
Proof Positive Design
ProTech Carpet Cleaning
Resolutions LLC
Revolution Design and Printing
Rocky Top Farms
Rodger’s Grass-fed Beef
Rosetta Hardscapes/
Aster Brands
Short’s Brewing Company
Sleepytime Press
Smokehouse Bellaire
Swift Printing
Three Lakes Association
Threads Custom Gear
Torch Lake Cellars
Torch Lake Protection Alliance
Vada Color
Village Market
VP Demand Creation Srvcs.
Water Fire Vineyards
The Watershed Center
Whistling Frog Tile Co.
Widow’s Peak Design

Gallery Artists

Thank you gallery artists who share their unique visions of Torch Lake.

Shawn Allen
Kathy Amerman
Karen Barden
Jessica Briscoe
Ernie Carrick
Patty Clark
Paula Cordes
Christie Dreese
Jane Falion
Mark Forton
Robin Gransow
Erika Greer
Mary Guntzviller
Mary Haley
Samantha Hall
Camille Hamilton
Lisa Hebb
Beth Howard
Megan Huntington

Steve Jessmore
Wayne Lancaster
Janet Lerner
Lisa Lirones
Sue Malone
Caitlin Marsh
Sherry Marshall
Wendy McWhorter
Noranne Morin
Mary Ellen Murphy
Debbie Northup
Sara Potter
Anne Richards
Sara Sturtevant
Jane Theobald
Karen Tomlinson
Heidi Tonn Cooper
Barb Van Pelt
Mary Ann Verderbar
Sherry Westenbroek
Ron Wilkie
Elizabeth Wilson
Jenn Wright
Gillian Von Seeger

THANK YOU!

Community Partner Profile

Our vision is to support a well-informed community of local businesses, landowners and visitors who actively care for Torch Lake.

The Village Market

The Village Market has been promoting the well-being of Torch Lake for the fifty years that the local Young family has owned it. The lake is as important to the Market as it is to everyone in the area who uses it recreationally. A digital sign outside the store flashes, “Keep Torch Clean.”

The Market has historically supported all groups protecting Torch. Its relationship with TCC began years ago when they agreed to erect a sign on the Rapid City property marking the edge of the lake watershed. Last year the Market added reusable shopping bags with “Care for Torch” printed on them to their other merchandise promoting the lake.

There’s a symbiotic relationship between the Village Market and TCC in preserving Torch’s beauty. The Market supports organizations that care for the lake because the lake supports the business along with providing pleasure to locals and tourists alike.



Lisa Ash, Kevin Young, Jenny Sobrey from the Village Market

Meet Our Teams

Thanks to our teams of dedicated volunteers and committed community partners, our small organization has a Big Impact!



Leadership Team

Paul Beaupre
Nancy Brown
Jan Ducsay
Brian Huffman
Jim Nestor
Linda Oxford
Keith Ross
Theresa Schurman
Stacy Sollenberger
Emilee Syrewicze

Admin Team

Kathy Amerman
Anissa Bittner
Maryl Kohl
Kathryn Perrin
Theresa Schurman
Christina Woods

Creative Team

Marie Beaupre
Paul Beaupre
Jack Bodis
Creative Characters
Eric Campbell
Erin Rose Brotherton
Proof Positive Design
Peg Comfort
Amy Hansen
Alan and Tara Hubbard
Pro Image
Jen Kellogg
Laura Kohl
Maryl Kohl
Laura McCartor
Liubov Matviyevskyy
Mezinets Design
Trish Narwold
Mitch Pietryga
Jan Schilling
Diane Verploegh
Christina Woods

Artisan Market Team

Kathy Amerman
Louise Austin
Amelia Beatty
Nancy Brown
Chris Coulter
Julie Coulter
Marlene Hulteen
Barb Lockrey
Susan Matyiku
Linda Oxford
Kathryn Perrin
Mike Perrin
Anne Richards
Karen Swanson
Lynn West

THANK YOU!

Volunteer of the Year

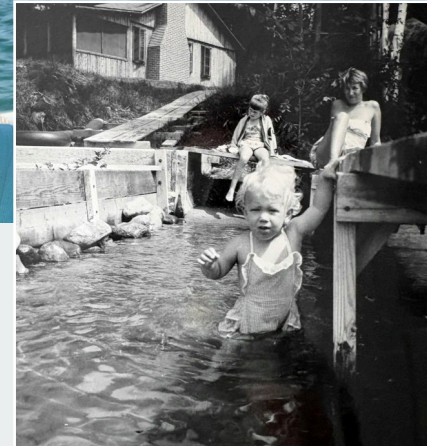
Our volunteers continue to amaze us with their willingness to lend a hand, their enthusiasm for our stewardship program, and their commitment to caring for Torch Lake.

Linda Oxford 2025 Volunteer of the Year

The Oxford family have owned property on Torch Lake since 1935, when Linda's grandparents bought land to build a place where their family could be together. Ninety years later, the fifth generation visits, staying in the original Bellaire Log Cabin still in use today. Linda cares for the lake in ways promoted by TCC, creating a native plant border between her yard and the lake, regularly pumping her septic tank, and volunteering with CAKE-CISMA to remove invasive plant species in the area. Believing deeply

in nature's healing power, Linda feels it's our duty to safeguard it.

A primary reason that Linda supports TCC is her conviction that education can make a difference. Linda serves in the Artisan Market as an inventory manager, buyer, and occasional docent as part of a team. Her aim is to gently encourage small, practical steps to protect the watershed and surrounding lands.



Gallery Sponsors Make a Difference

Stacy and Alan Sollenberger are native Michiganders who toured up north several years ago. Awestruck on a boat ride around Torch, they were convinced it was the best place for their family to come home to from other states.

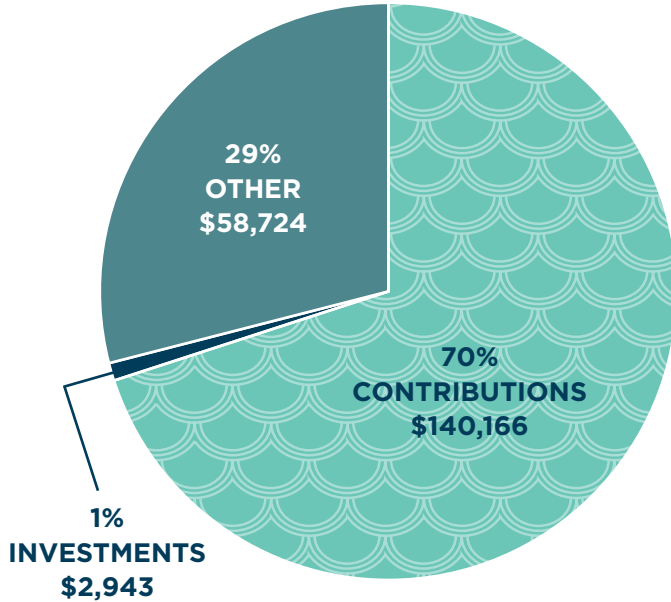
The Sollenbergers care for the watersheds on their properties by limiting chemicals and pumping septics regularly. For a recent building project, they will reduce grass areas and buffer the shoreline with native plants. They also promote what they've learned from TCC in the community.

Stacy and Alan have been huge supporters of TCC and the Artisan Market in recent years. They say one reason is that there are many organizations collecting data, but not so many using that data to educate on what we can each do to preserve our watershed, as TCC does. The Sollenbergers encourage others to think long term about preserving Torch for future generations and have a passion for keeping the lake as beautiful as the first time they saw it.



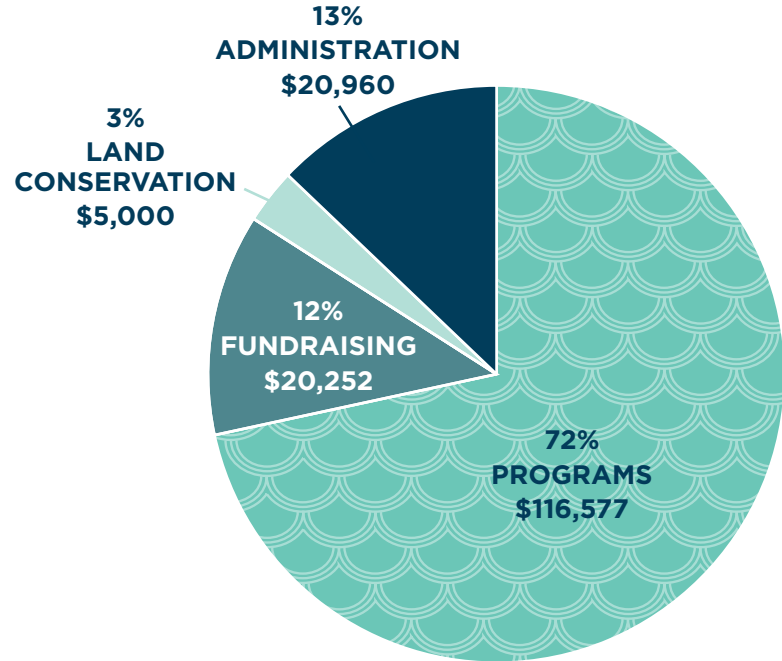
Stacy and Alan Sollenberger

2025 INCOME



TOTAL: \$201,833

2025 EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$162,789

38 Volunteers contributed Goods and Services worth \$169,663.22

Our Generous Supporters:

GALLERY SPONSORS

The Ashby Burger Charitable Fund
 Becknell Family Charitable Fund
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bloom
 The Bruce and Nancy Brown Family Charitable Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Comfort
 Dole Family Foundation - Elizabeth Dole Grant
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Findlay
 Ms. Pamela Ford
 Mr. Mark Forton
 Mr. and Mrs. Duane Meyer
 Oryana Food Cooperative
 Newman Family Foundation
 Pro Image Design
 Ms. Linda Oxford
 Laurie and Dan Roche Family Fund
 Mr. Keith Ross and Ms. Louise Doud
 Mr. and Mrs. David Sawin
 Ms. Theresa Schurman
 Shotime Inc.
 Sollenberger Charitable Fund
 Mrs. Karen Swanson and Mr. Ralph Pearlman

Mr. James Templin
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vanhartesveldt
 Village Market
 Mrs. Thomas N. Volle
 Ms. Wendy Wagner
 West Family Charitable Fund
 Williamson Ross Family Giving Fund
 Harold E. and Esther L. Wills Foundation

VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Amerman
 Jim Austin
 Louise Austin
 Paul Beaupre
 Nancy Brown
 Peg Comfort
 Julie Coulter
 Chris Coulter
 Jan Ducsay
 Brian Huffman
 Marlene Hulteen
 Laura Kohl
 Maryl Kohl
 Barb Lockrey
 Susan Matyiku
 Trish Narwold
 Jim Nestor

Linda Oxford
 Ralph Perlman
 Kathy Perrin
 Mike Perrin
 Anne Richards
 Keith Ross
 Theresa Schurman
 Stacy Sollenberger
 Emily Syrewicze
 Karen Swanson
 Lynn West
 Christina Woods
 Mitch Pietryga

DONATIONS

John Vogel and Kathy Amerman
 Brigitte Anderson
 The Ashby Burger Charitable Fund
 Randy and Margaret Asmus
 Kathleen Babb
 Stephen and Lisa Bain
 Jeffrey Barber
 Brad and Polly Barnes
 Paul and April Beaupre
 Becknell Family Charitable Fund
 Barker Creek Nursery
 Ryan Beutel and Tina Skimsom

Philip and Leann Bigos
 Donald Blasy
 William and Laura Blessed
 Jerry and Drieka Bloom
 Paul and Donna Bremer
 H.A. Brereton
 Connie Brigham
 The Bruce and Nancy Brown Family Charitable Foundation
 Ralph and Mary Brown
 Gary and Linnea Brunk
 Edward and Dana Bucknam
 "John Buell, Jr. and Cora Buell"
 Bruce Burns
 Lou and Kate Burr
 Butch's Tackle and Marine
 Peter Byron
 Albert Cash
 Christine Chesny
 Robert and Jennifer Comfort
 Thomas and Margaret Comfort
 William and Paula Cordes
 Linda Cotter
 Christopher and Julie Coulter
 Carrie Coyne
 Barbara Cummings
 Peter Daily
 Robert and Jamie Davidson

Dole Family Foundation - Elizabeth Dole Grant
 Jan Ducsay
 "Ralph and Frances Dunlop, Jr."
 Caryn Edwards
 Thomas Emling
 William Esterline
 Judy Ettema
 James and Deborah Fellowes
 Jack and Patricia Findlay
 Pamela Ford
 Kim Foster
 Tim and Linda Fox
 Karen Franseen
 Laura Franseen
 Lisa Franseen
 Matthew and Terri Franzen
 David and Marian Geohagan
 Give Lively Foundation Inc.
 Barbara Glendening and Anna Beird
 Jack and Bonnie Harrington
 Ron and Barb Heiderman
 Herrington-Fitch Family Foundation
 Hidden Cottage
 Susan Holtzmann
 Marne and Joann Homberg
 William and Ruth Hopp
 Patrick and Stephanie Howell

THANK YOU!

David Hulefeld
Bruce and Marlene Hulteen
Matthew M. Hulteen
Neal and Rebecca Huntington
Craig and Ginger Hupp
Sherry Hupp
Craig and Mary Ellen Hysong
Leslie Jehning
Steve Jessmore Photography
Gina Jones
Paul and Kelly Judge
Ann Kassen
Kirby and Nancy Keller
Patrick and Sue Kelly
Barry Kennedy
Ted and Mary Kennedy
Grafton and Galye Keyes
Elizabeth Kienker
Linda King
Richard and Janet Knopf
Tim and Linda Kohr
Bruce Krauskoph
Douglas Kulwicki and Mary Elarton
Randy and Amy Kummler
Klonie Kunzel
Lakeside Properties Real Estate
J.P. Lambert Fund
Mike Lambert
Nancy Lamia

Maggie Leffke
Craig and Dianne LeMieux
Richard and Carolyn Lineback
Michael and Sandra Lininger
Barbara Lockrey
Robert Logee
George Longstreth
Kevin Lorch
Joe and Norma Mariage
Catherine Marshall
David and Nicole Martin
Nancy McCoy
Lillian McLachlan
Jim and Karen McLeod
Dan and Sarah McNamara
Robert and Karen Medsger
Nancy Meleski
Ann Melfi
Duane and Jill Meyer
Bruce and Karen Mitchell
James and Janet Montgomery Jr.
James and Nancy Morosin
Judith Munger
Dave and Jean Muntz
Roberta Mylan
Scott Nakon
Alicia Nance
Andrew and Patricia Narwold
Angelo and Catherine Nasca Jr.

TheNBXpress.com
Mary Jo Neely
Norm and Ann Neuschwander
Newman Family Foundation
Gregg and Carolyn Nowfel
William and Dorothy O'Donnell Family Fund
Patrick and Linda O'Leary
James and Heidi O'Neil
Oryana Food Cooperative
Kevin and Deb Osterfeld
Howard and Karyn Overbeek
Linda Oxford
The Pear Tree
Patricia Pellett
Michael and Kathryn Perrin
Gary and Lyn Petty
Judy Potter
F. Verne Powell
George and Nancy Powell
Eve Pritchard
Laura Rayhawk
Laurie and Dan Roche Family Fund
Daniel and Martha Rogalny
Michael and Sharon Root
Dexter and Kathleen Ross
Gary and Linda Ross
Keith Ross and Louise Doud
"John S. Ross, Jr."

"John S. Ross, III"
Harold and Susan Rummery
Eugenia Sacopulos
Daniel and Eileen Sajkowski
Milka Sanders
David and Melissa Sawin
Claire Scheibner
Julie Schmidt
Theresa Schurman
Max and Ann Schwandt
Shorts Brewing Company
Shotime Inc.
Paula Shuler and Joel Schaap
MarthaJean Smith
Sollenberger Charitable Fund
Kerry Steck
Geoffrey and Shoshanah Sternlieb
Christian Stoldt
Gail Straith
Strike Family Trust
Suszan Family Foundation
Kjell and Sue Svensson
Karen Swanson and Ralph Pearlman
SWT Design
Kimberly Sylvester
"James Templin, Jr."
Deborah Tenerelli

Edward Theisen
Scott Thompson
The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation
Hope Turner
Nan Twiss
Peter and Allison Vanhartesveldt
Village Market
Kathleen Volle
Wendy Wagner
Kent and Suzanne Walker
Christine Walton
Kari Walworth
Kathryn Watkins
Carol Watson
Nicole Webb
Paul and Beverly Wehr
West Family Charitable Fund
Whistling Frog Tile Company
Dorothy Wierman
Ronald and Susan Wilkie
Williamson Ross Family Giving Fund
Harold E. and Esther L. Wills Family Foundation
Steve Wingard
Laura Wood
Maureen Yahrmatter

Giving in Different Ways

Honorarium Recipient
Gifts were made in honor of the
names shown in bold.

Alden Men's Club

Hope Turner

Paul Beaupre

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Peg Comfort

Pamela Ford

Wendy Wagner

The Comfort Family

Robert and Jennifer Comfort

Bruce and Marlene Hulteen

Matthew M. Hulteen

Trish Narwold

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Trish Narwold and Peg Comfort

Gary and Lyn Petty

James Nestor

Christine Chesny

Alfred Richard

Deborah Tenerelli

Karen Swanson and Ralph Pearlman

Ron and Barb Heiderman

Emilee Syrewicze

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Kathryn Tenerelli Watkins

Deborah Tenerelli

Memorial Recipient
Gifts were made in memory of the
names shown in bold.

Barry J. Andrews

Kari Walworth

Norma Bacle

Douglas Kulwicki and Mary Elarton

Barbara and Anne Beaupre

Paul and April Beaupre

MaryAnn Beird

Barbara Glendening and Anna Beird

Justin Beutel

Theresa Schurman

Todd Collins

Kathleen Babb

Leon Crossman

Philip and Leann Bigos

Robert Fike

Carol Watson

Cathy Harden

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Patricia Heyl Jones

Paul and Kelly Judge

Phyl and Ralph Kondal

Kerry Steck

Joe Mariage

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Mark McDairmid

Bruce Krauskoph

Craig McFarland

Brad and Polly Barnes

Paul and Donna Bremer

Linda Cotter

Carrie Coyne

Barbara Cummings

William and Ruth Hopp

David Hulefeld

Gina Jones

Barry Kennedy

Ted and Mary Kennedy

Grafton and Galye Keyes

Elizabeth Kienker

Linda King

Jim and Karen McLeod

Angelo and Catherine Nasca Jr.

Mary Jo Neely

Howard and Karyn Overbeek

Laura Rayhawk

Gary and Linda Ross

Eugenia Sacopulos

Milka Sanders

MarthaJean Smith

SWT Design

Peter and Allison Vanhartesveldt

James McFarland

James and Nancy Morosin

Tim Meeder

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

John and Chuck Melfi

Stephen and Lisa Bain

Dorothy Mercer

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Paul and Helen Rockwell

TheNBXpress.com

Bill Ross

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Nancy Ruder

Jerry and Drieka Bloom

Sue Schuler

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Grace Stump

Patrick and Sue Kelly

James Templin Jr.

James Templin, Jr.

Thomas N. Volle

Paul and April Beaupre

Jerry and Drieka Bloom

Ralph and Mary Brown

The Bruce and Nancy Brown Family

Charitable Foundation

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

Judy Ettema

Leslie Jehning

Klonie Kunzel

Richard and Carolyn Lineback

George Longstreth

Kevin Lorch

Andrew and Patricia Narwold

Eve Pritchard

Julie Schmidt

Join Us



The best way to show your love of the Torch Lake Watershed is by supporting stewardship through the Torch Conservation Center.

**Be a part of the solution by getting in touch through:
conservetorch.org/contact**

Theresa Schurman, Executive Director
execdir@conservetorch.org 989.860.4283

**Or stop by the Torch Conservation Center
Artisan Market:
9046 Helena Road, Alden, MI 49612**



We all share a love for Torch Lake and care about its future. All of us want to continue traditions with our family and friends, or start new ones that will last for generations to come. You've contributed your ideas, times, and hard-earned money to the Torch Conservation Center, while spreading the word to others who can also show that they care.

We're hoping that you'll continue to participate and support our efforts, as we continue to Care for Torch and educate the community about how best to do that.

Thanks for *all* you do!

— Your Board of Directors



P.O. Box 1142
Bellaire, MI 49615

contact@conservetorch.org
www.conservetorch.org

