



# THE WAYNE Dispatch

MAY 2017

## from one **GiRL** to Another

Wayne resident travels to  
Africa to empower girls

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# Making a **DIFFERENCE** for girls

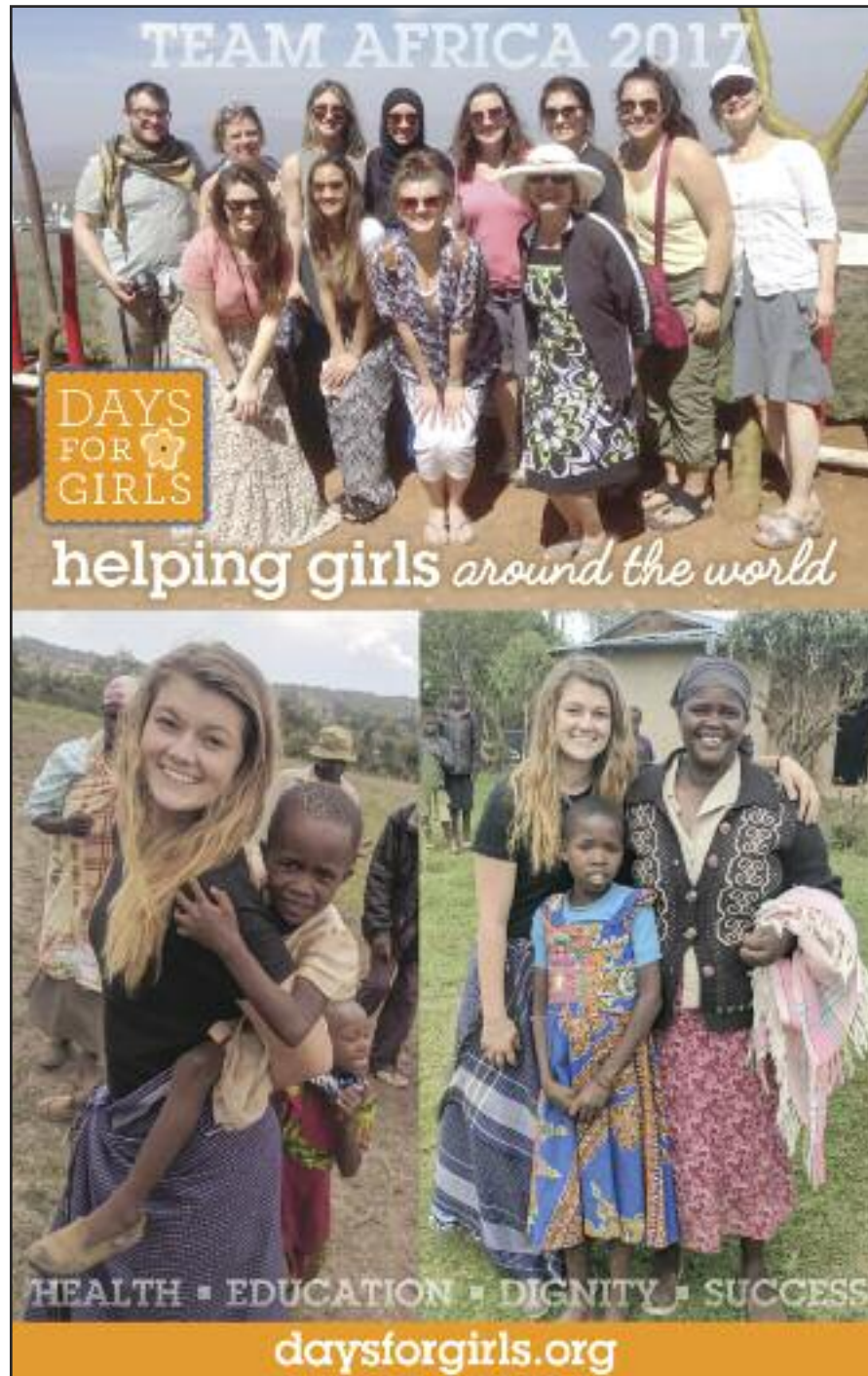
By **Natalie Rhaesa**

What does it mean to be changed? If you were to look up the word 'change' in a dictionary or google search, you would see phrases such as: "to become different," or "to be transformed." Change is powerful. Some believe change is good, others believe change is inevitable. Change can be many things but there is a change that is life altering.... the kind of change you experience when you take a risk. Wayne resident Krysta Forrester knows all about this "change" because she experienced it for herself during a recent mission trip to Africa.

Krysta, a 22 year old Wayne State University nursing student and former Wayne Memorial High School graduate, took a special journey to help young girls in need. She went on a ten day adventure to Africa with a group of 9 students as well as professor and organizer, Joan Bickes (Community Health Nurse) of Wayne State University and one professor from Oakland University. The flight to Africa was long, 9 hours from Metro Detroit to Paris, France, a 45 minute layover in Paris and then another 9 hour flight from Paris to Kenya's capital, Nairobi. On top of the long hours of flight there is an 8 hour time difference, which leaves the team tired but anxious to land.

The team lands in East Africa (Kenya) in the night. Upon arrival in the midst of the warm dry climate, the team is surprised to see palm trees at the airport. It took a few days for the team to adjust to the climate and altitude of Kenya where the winter/rainy months begin in March. Located 5,889 feet above sea level, the nights in Kenya can be cool, dropping to 48 degrees in the winter months with the coldest months being June, July and August. Quite the opposite of what the team from Michigan experience. For the most part the temperatures stay in the high 70's and 80's during the day and mid 50's in the evenings. "The first few days were so surreal, it was so beautiful there" Krysta recalls.

The landscape in Nairobi (popularly known as "The Green City in the Sun") is filled with vegetation and



fertile ground, helping Kenya to produce their two largest agricultural exports, tea and coffee. On the first day of their journey, Krysta and the team traveled 10 hours by Jeep from Nairobi to Maseno with translators Isaac Kasura and his brother Anthony Kasura, both Safari guides in the Masai Mara Safari. "Isaac was a very nice person, not only was he our translator and travel advisor, he was also our friend," Krysta said. While traveling to the Great Rift Valley the

team was able to see many of the tea plantations in the area. "The tiny trees in this area reminded me of The Lion King trees," Krysta said. The team traveled to the Great Rift Valley viewpoint, where they stood in awe of the breathtaking scenery. The Great Rift Valley is known for its magnificent views and abundant wildlife... astronauts claim it is the most significant physical detail on the planet that is visible from space.

With Kenya bordering the equa-

tor, the temperature was very warm and dry and the team was supplied bottled water to keep hydrated throughout the trip. "Obviously we were not able to drink their water," Krysta stated. "It was interesting to learn how their diseases are perceived in Africa, like Aids is not a disease to them, it is a curse," Krysta said. "The people of Africa also believe that high blood pressure is also a result of a curse and not a condition," she stated. The team learned a lot about how the people in that area view diseases and curses through actual literature they looked at when they visited Mission Hospitals. The booklets were there to inform the patients of what is true and false about diseases and medical conditions.... and they listed "a curse" as a false reason for a person to have a certain condition.

Krysta, who is studying to become a Registered Nurse, was surprised by the lack of equipment and medical supplies at the nurse's stations of the hospitals they visited. "They didn't seem very sanitary either," she replied. Krysta and her team had to take several precautions themselves before they could go to Africa. They each needed a yellow fever and typhoid vaccine and they were given Malarone, an anti-malaria medication. "I actually felt really sick on one day of our trip from taking the Malarone," Krysta said. On their second night in Kenya they had to sleep under bug nets to keep from getting bit by mosquitos (which carry malaria.) However when they stayed in the mountain areas with higher elevations, there was less risk for being bit by mosquitos.

The team finally arrived in Maseno to their first school on their journey. It was a one room school with concrete floors, wooden benches and tables. All the children wore uniforms and even the girls had their heads shaved. The reason for keeping school aged children's heads shaved was for sanitary reasons due to the amount of insects that are attracted to hair. On each visit they separated the boys from the girls so the team could teach the

See **Africa**, page 14



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Wayne: Its Early Farms and Practices

Join the Wayne Historical Society on Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. for "Wayne: It's Early Farms and Practices" program. Come learn about Wayne's early farming history and the unique things Wayne was known for. Did you know Wayne and Michigan in general were the world's leading peppermint producer at one time in the 1800's? Farmers also grew tobacco, and Wayne had a thriving cigar making business at the turn of the century. Also enjoy plenty of pictures of chickens, cows and horses as we go through the photo archive. The event is at the Wayne Historical Museum.

### Retiree health care approved

A health plan was approved 4-2 by City Council on April 18 to provide City of Wayne retirees with health care while reducing city spending. Pre-65 retirees would pay \$241.50 per month if single, \$508 if couple, or \$695.50 for family. Post-65 retirees would pay \$128.50 or \$257.

This is expected to reduce deficit spending by \$465,723. This plan will start July 1 with the new City of Wayne fiscal calendar.

### New finance director

The City Administration has named Kathryn Sample as the new Finance Director for the City of Wayne. Ms. Sample comes to the City from American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit where she has been employed since 2010. Ms.



### Proud Americans

Lloyd Allen, Bill Johnson, and Mike Smith of the UAW Local 900 presented a generous donation of \$16,000 dollars for the Veterans Plaza on behalf of their members to Councilman Tom Porter and Councilman John Rhaesa. The plaza is in need of major repairs and this money will help to make it a place that Veterans can be proud of and deserve. Photo by Natalie Rhaesa

Sample has a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and an Associates of Applied Science in Accounting.

City Manager Lisa Nocerini said, "We are excited to welcome Kathryn to our leadership team in Wayne. She has over 10 years of private sector experience and accounting experience, and she is a perfect fit for the new focus and direction we are seeking in the Finance Department. During the selection process it was obvious that she thrives in learning and taking on new challenges, improving processes, and making the

people in the organization around her better."

Plante Moran, who has been working with the City of Wayne for two years in the finance capacity, will reduce their time from five days to three days a week. "Plante Moran has done a tremendous job assisting the City in the area of finance. The firm will continue their work with the City for the time being so that Kathryn can transition into her new position," the City Manager added.

Ms. Sample started her new position on Monday, April 24th.

### Museum display boards need sponsors

Change is happening at the Wayne Historical Museum. One of those changes is updating the display cases in the museum. The Wayne Historical Society is asking for your help in sponsoring display cases. Themes for the display cases have already been determined. Costs for the displays are for printing professional display boards with pictures and text along with paint and lighting improvements to the case. Prices range from \$40 for the Hosie House display up to \$135 for the Theaters display. Most of the displays are priced at \$70. Contact the historical society for more information. The museum is open Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### New businesses and renovations

On April 18, the City Council approved several new businesses and an existing business renovation. A new Family Dollar Store will locate next to Fresh Choice Foods at 35412 Michigan Avenue East. Family Dollar will make interior renovations and facade alternations on the 8,480 square foot building. Merriman Food Market will be making facade alternations on the 4,373 square foot building at 5774 S. Merriman Road. Metro Storage, 33577 Michigan Avenue, amended their prior site plans to include a second floor. The square footage will increase from 11,108 square feet to 25,296 square feet

See **CALENDAR**, page 12

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# Red Wings vs. Road Runners: it's a win!

By Carolyn Marnon

The Detroit Red Wings and the Roosevelt-McGrath Road Runners have many things in common. Students at the elementary school learned all about them at a recent Detroit Red Wings School Assembly. The assembly was interactive and provided positive messages for the students about the importance of education and a healthy lifestyle.

The assembly started with the "silent wave," the sign for everyone to be quiet and pay attention. Coach Ryan from the event marketing team (the presenters were all referred to as coaches), asked the students if they even knew who the Red Wings were. Most of the students acknowledged that they did know who Detroit's hockey team was. Coach Ryan told the kids they were going to "talk, cheer, play some games" and just have fun. When the coaches yelled out "Let's go..." the students were to reply "Red Wings." This was their fun way of getting the student's attention back to the front of the gym.

When Coach Ryan asked them who wanted to go to college, most of the kids raised their hands. Coach Ryan and his team, Coach Sam and Coach Liz, had Red Wing pencil cases with pencils, rulers and a few other supplies to hand out to winners during a round of Trivia. What's the name of the giant trophy the team could win (a cardboard replica was at the front of the gym)? Answers ranged from championship, Red Wings trophy, shoot-out trophy, cup trophy until a young girl named Trinity correctly answered: Stanley Cup. The Red Wings have won more Stanley Cups than any other team in the United States. How many times have they won? Angel knew the answer: 11. Only kindergartners were allowed to answer the next question: What is the name of the position who stands in the net and wears a mask? Corey knew it was the goalie. Back to all the students: What arena do the Red Wings practice and play their home games at? Some thought it was The Palace until Chelsea gave her answer: Joe Louis Arena. What do people throw out on the ice during the playoffs? Just how did Aiden know that it was an octopus?

Cardboard cutouts of players stood at the front of the assembly



The Detroit Red Wings Assembly at Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

floor. Although no players were physically in attendance, Dylan Larkin, Henrik Zetterberg and Petr Mrazek, Coach Ryan said, wanted the kids to know the importance of education. Justin Abdelkader, Riley Sheahan and Niklas Kronwall wanted them to know the importance of dedication. Students and players are not different in regards to education. The both have teachers: the Wings' teacher is called a coach. Students were asked what subjects they liked to learn about. Math and reading were the winners, although science, writing and social studies each received a vote. This was compared to subjects the Wings study like offense, defense and stick handling. While students have tests in school, the Red Wings have 82 tests every year (games) and in the playoffs, there are even more tests that are harder than the regular tests. Students are winners with A's while players are winners with game wins. It was stressed that the more A's students get, the better they will be in middle school, high school and college.

Michigan Education Savings Plan is one of the sponsors of the Red Wings School Assembly Program. Students were told that Danny

DeKeyser went to Western Michigan University, Justin Abdelkader went to Michigan State and Dylan Larkin and Luke Glendening both went to University of Michigan. Students and their parents can save money through the M.E.S.P. so the students can go to college one day too.

Students learn from one another at school. The Red Wings learn from each other on the ice and in the locker room. Red Wings players come from all over the world: Michigan, Canada, Sweden and the Czech Republic. Coach Ryan told the kids that the Red Wings "don't make fun of each other or call each other names. This makes them a better team."

Students were asked what they work hard at or dedicate themselves to achieving. Third grader Becca wants to be a better soccer goalie. The students then learned that players also set goals-to do well in school, to do well in sports, and to play professional sports. To achieve these goals they have to eat healthy and get lots of exercise.

Students were taught how everything on your plate should be healthy: fruits and vegetables, protein and milk. The students went on

an imaginary walk through Kroger, another sponsor of the assembly program. They were shown pictures of food items and asked if they were healthy. Strawberries, broccoli, whole grain bread, steak and milk all got the healthy nod. Chocolate chip cookies, chocolate cake and lollipops could still be eaten, but they were considered treats. If students were to eat healthy, they would have more energy and would grow strong. Students were asked to promise the Red Wings they would eat healthy. If a parent were to pack lunch tomorrow, the students should open their lunch box/bag and see what is inside. If it is not healthy, they should hand it back to their parent and say that the Red Wings want them to eat a healthy lunch.

Exercise was the next topic. Students had various ways they exercise: push ups, pull ups, gymnastics, running, walking the dog, lifting weights, treadmill, riding a bike, dancing, playing soccer, sit ups, softball and jumping jacks. The Red Wings, on the other hand, get 200-300 minutes of exercise when they are on the ice.

Excitement built when it was time for the students to take on the teachers for a shoot-out competition. Students encouraged their teachers to volunteer in an effort to get six teachers to play. No effort was needed to get students! The players were told to work on their stick handling, shoot the ball at the net and try to score on the opposing goalie. The best of five competition had the kids shouting their goalie's name, Alex, when the teachers took turns to score. They also cheered on their fellow students who were shooting the ball. Despite the enthusiasm of the students, the teachers won the shoot-out 4-2.

The assembly came to a close with the event marketing team presenting the school with a full set of street hockey equipment courtesy of the Detroit Red Wings Foundation. The equipment included two nets, sticks, balls and goalie equipment. Just like the Red Wings have 11 championship banners hanging from the rafters at Joe Louis Arena, Roosevelt-McGrath would have their own banner. Styled like the championship banners.



# Sharing scholarship makes everyone a winner

By Carolyn Marnon

Wouldn't you like to be part of a program where girls share in the scholarship money available? Wouldn't you like to have fun while doing it? It's possible when you participate in the Distinguished Young Women program. Distinguished Young Women (DYW) is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun experience. The program strives to give young women the opportunity to further their educations and prepare for a successful future.

"Decades of Distinction" was the theme of the 2017 Wayne-Westland program. Nine high school juniors from Wayne Memorial and John Glenn came together over a two month period to prepare for the event that was held at Wayne Memorial's Stockmeyer Auditorium on March 10.

On the night of the program, each girl introduced herself and told the audience what her best asset was. Madison Lago (JGHS) said it was her kindness. Katherine Iwanka (WMHS) chose her sense of humor. Olivia Smith (WMHS) thought it was her giggly personality. Sariah Bolden (WMHS) liked her passion. Alexis Parcell (WMHS) touted her passion and personality. Hailey Hayward (WMHS) was positive it was her positivity. Danielle Deel (JGHS) has determination as does Ashley Socia (JGHS). Finally, Irisa Lico (WMHS) was proud of her motivation.

The young ladies did a physical fitness routine to "I've Got a Feeling" where the girls took turns doing the same brief routine showing that they can keep themselves fit. Each girl



Front Row (Left to Right): Madison Lago; Olivia Smith; Alexis Parcell; Hailey Hayward; Amber Ladd. Middle Row: Jordan Berry; Kaitlyn Balko; Katherine Iwanka; Ashley Socia; Danielle Deel; Irisa Lico; Riana Hardyniec. Back Row: Christine Soleau; Sariah Bolden; Lauren Perry; Jodi Berry.

presented a talent. Talents included cheerleading, dance, singing, reciting a monologue, poetry, narrated photography and a traditional Albanian dance. Finally, the girls drew a card with a question that they had to answer. The week before, the girls met with the judges for a ten minute interview. Not part of the evening agenda, but counted towards the girls scores, was a review of their high school transcripts. The goal of the entire program is for the girls to become their best selves.

Riana Hardyniec, 2016 DYW of Wayne-Westland said it best in her closing statement. "Finally, to all the girls who competed tonight, remem-

ber that no matter what the results are, the judges are not picking a winner but a representative from a group of winners."

Ashley Socia of Westland won the title of 2018 DYW of Wayne-Westland. First Runner Up Sariah Bolden is 2018 DYW of Westland while Second Runner Up Danielle Deel is 2018 DYW of Wayne. All three will represent the Wayne-Westland program at the state competition that will be held in Saline in July.

Ashley "heard about the program through the past participants Kaitlyn Balko (who is 2017 Wayne-Westland DYW), Dominique Denson, Kendall Stasser and a few others." She saw

through social media all of the great things these girls had participated in. "I decided to participate in the program because it would be a great opportunity to get outside of my comfort zone, meet new friends and new mentors. The benefits that I have received from the program are being more confident with my true self and creating new friendships with girls my age and also gaining multiple new role models from the DYW board. Competition night was super fun. I was a little nervous but more relaxed than usual because it didn't feel like a competition. All of us girls became very close and any of the girls I met would have deserved the title of the Distinguished Young Woman of Wayne-Westland. That night was filled with fun and excitement! We all had a blast backstage talking to each other and having fun before we went out on stage."

"I am looking forward to applying this fall to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to study medicine," she continued. "I'm looking forward to the state program; it will be another great experience to help me grow! I love how the program helps young women explore new opportunities, gain self-confidence, and build up their future. I will be singing another song that is inspirational to me, and I have been practicing my talent as well as my interviewing skills and personal fitness. A young woman who really inspires me from this program is Riana Hardyniec. She was the Distinguished Young Woman of Wayne Westland and Michigan. She has been such a big help throughout the process. Also, she attends the

See **DYW**, page 10

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# Art sparks excitement in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

“What are all those people doing standing on the sidewalk?” must have been going through the minds of Wayne Road drivers last month as they witnessed the mass of people standing outside Helium Studios on April 13. Passing cars honked their horns as Wayne Main Street and the City of Wayne kicked off the 2017 DIA Inside/Out program in Wayne with a ribbon cutting and the unveiling of “Annunciatory Angel” outside the store.

The Inside/Out program, funded by The Knight Foundation, brings high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA’s world-class collections outdoors to the public. The popular DIA program is in its 8th year. “Art has the powerful ability to unify, and Inside|Out allows us to bring people together outside of the museum walls,” said Salvador Salort-Pons, DIA director. “We see ourselves as more than a museum; we use art to encourage connections and improve understanding among our diverse communities.” The DIA’s mission is to create opportunities for all visitors to find personal meaning in art.

Over the past seven years, the art museum has partnered with more than 100 communities and engaged tens of thousands of residents with art in places where they live, work and play. This year, the DIA will expand the number of installation sites from approximately 80 to 120 per three-month season - more than ever before! This is Wayne’s second time participating in the program; the first time was in 2012.

It took the DIA three years to de-



Mayor Rowe and Wayne Main Street President Juan Bradford unveil the DIA’s Annunciatory Angel at Helium Studios last month. Photo by Natalie Rhaesa

velop the best technique for producing high-quality reproductions that could withstand the elements during a three-month temporary outdoor installation. The museum uses a graphic printer to fabricate vinyl images that are laminated to aluminum plates. The plates are then encased in pretreated wooden frames, creating a first-class reproduction. The lifespan of a work will vary depending on temperature, moisture, and additional physical conditions. While the prints are constructed for a temporary lifespan, they can last for several years. A friendly printer will also be able to easily assist if one becomes damaged. Inside|Out has not had a single case of vandalism or theft.

With the help of Wayne Main Street, there will be many activities associated with the art while it is on loan to the city. Below are some of the events and activities you can participate in.

## June 8

The Wayne Bicycle Club will be hosting a DIA Inside/Out Display Ride on Thursday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. All interested bike riders will meet at the State Wayne Theater for the beginning of the proposed 4-mile bike ride. The State Wayne features “Cotopax.” The ride will take participants down to Icon Computer Solutions to see “Colonel Montessoro,” around to The Avenue for “Syria by the Sea,” the Wayne Historical Museum for “Fourteenth Street at Sixth Avenue,” over to the Wayne Public Library for “Irises and Calla Lilies,” then down to the new Derby’s Alley Pocket Park for “Eros Triumphant,” “Tiled Niche,” and “Princess Sophia.”

The ride will then head over toward Helium Studios to see “Annunciatory Angel,” circle around to City Hall/Goudy Park for “The Fisherman’s Wedding” and end back at the State Wayne Theater. A volunteer docent from the DIA will present infor-

mation on each of the paintings along the way.

## June 17

From 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. there will be a Family Fun and Food Truck Day in Wayne. Check the Wayne Main Street website at [www.downtownwayne.org](http://www.downtownwayne.org) or their Facebook page for more information.

## July 14

There will be a drop-in workshop when the mobile DIA comes to Wayne to participate in our Downtown Days and Sidewalk Sales. The event is 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. More information will be available soon.

## Ongoing until July

As part of this exciting program, Wayne Main Street has created a Scavenger Hunt that encourages participants to visit all 10 art exhibits throughout the downtown area. Those who complete the Hunt could be entered in a drawing to win some exciting prizes.

You then need to unscramble the highlighted letters to determine the puzzle answer. Entries then need to be dropped off at either Wayne Main Street/Wayne Historical Museum (if closed, you can drop through the mail slot at the side door) or Helium Studio during business hours. You can download and print a copy of the Scavenger Hunt at <https://wayne-mainstreet.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/inside-out-wayne-scamenger-hunt-map.pdf> or find one at Helium Studios, City Hall or the Wayne Public Library.

The art will be displayed through July 16.

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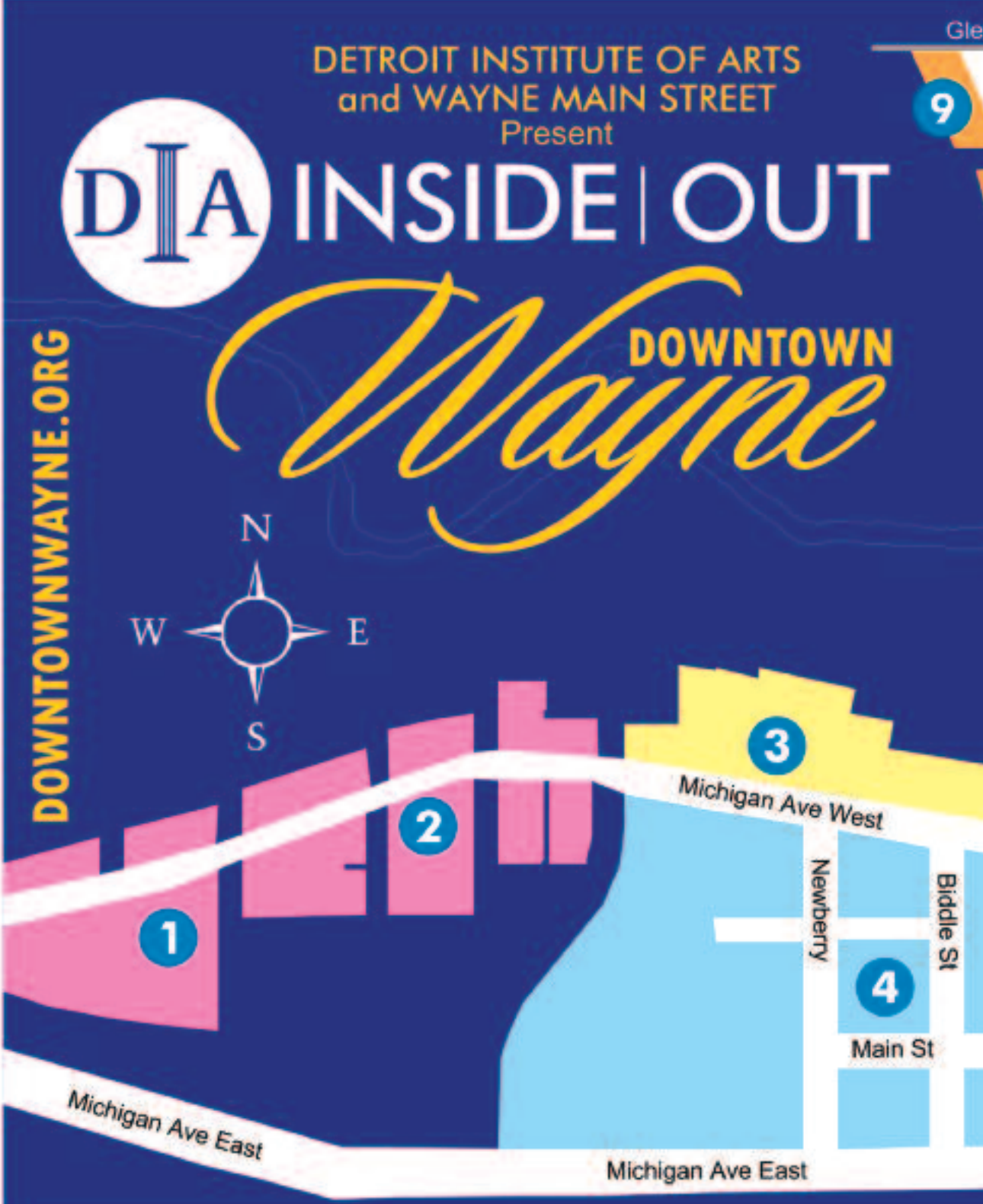
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**DYW**, Continued from page 6

University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which is my dream school. She is a huge role model for me! This program has really helped me to be my best self, and I want to thank the board of the DYW program for all that they do for us girls!"

Danielle also heard about the program through Kaitlyn Balko. Danielle plays varsity soccer and club soccer along with being on the yearbook committee and a member of the National Honor Society. Her goal is to become a Forensic Psychologist. She wants to go to Tiffin University in Ohio. It is one of 29 colleges in the US that offer the major; there are none in Michigan. While going through the program, she discovered that she was able to connect with new people and put herself out there. She will use this knowledge to create opportunities to succeed in the real world.

If you would like to support the DYW of Wayne-Westland program, please consider purchasing an 11" hanging basket for \$18 at their Mother's Day Plant Sale held at Wayne Lawn and Garden, 39915



Ashley Socia after her winning DYW of Wayne-Westland.

Michigan Avenue, Friday, May 12, 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

If you know a Wayne or Westland girl who will be a junior next school



2017 DYW Kaitlyn Balko congratulates Danielle Deel.

year, encourage her to learn more about the program. Even though talent is involved, anything can be a talent. If she plays soccer, she can present her soccer skills. If she writes poetry, she can recite a poem. The possibilities are endless.

Ashley walked away from the event in March with a \$1200 scholarship as the winner. She also won a

\$250 interview award, \$250 scholastic award, \$200 talent award, \$150 self-expression award, \$200 spirit award, and \$150 Be Your Best Self award. Danielle earned \$400 for being second runner up, \$250 interview award, \$250 scholastic award, \$150 Be Your Best Self award, and \$50 gift certificate from Target as the People's Choice Award winner.



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# Meet Wayne Main Street Executive Director

## An interview with Maxwell Cameron

### How did you learn about Wayne Main Street?

Initially I came across the posting and applied for the position not knowing a whole lot about Wayne Main Street. After applying I was able to do research on both Wayne Main Street and the Main Street model. I immediately became interested in the work the organization was doing, and the opportunity to make a positive impact in the City of Wayne.

### Did you know anything about WMS before you applied for the job?

Not really. I was able to learn about the organization by looking at the organization's website and social media accounts. There is a lot of information online about Main Street and the Wayne program, so that is really how I became familiar with WMS.

### Why did you apply for the job? What was it that intrigued you enough to apply?

I initially applied for this position because I was interested in continuing to work in the non-profit sector, but also to try something totally different from what I had done before. After learning more about the organization and the important work WMS undertakes, what struck me is that there was a tremendous opportunity to make a positive difference here in Wayne. It was evident throughout the interview process and my initial meetings with our board and committee members that



Main Street Executive Director Maxwell Cameron

the organization was committed to doing good and had good people involved. I felt that my skills in non-profit management and fund development would be a great fit and help the organization continue to grow.

### What has been the most challenging aspect of the new position?

It hasn't been fantastically challenging, but one thing that is different as compared to the job I left is that Wayne Main Street follows a national model and an overall frame-

work. There is a tremendous amount of flexibility in that structure, but you really have to try and understand the concept and philosophy of the Main Street approach to grasp why we do things the way we do.

So, in that regard there was a lot to learn, and I am still learning a lot about the Main Street model. The key is to always keep in mind that Wayne Main Street is one of 2,000 Main Street communities across the US, which means at any one time literally hundreds of communities

have faced the same challenges as us. Also being able to draw upon such a vast reservoir of knowledge is so beneficial to our programming.

### What you enjoyed most so far about the program?

There are so many things that I enjoy about Wayne Main Street. I think the single most exciting thing about the organization is the variety of projects and initiatives we work on. In any given day I am able to spend time planning events, working on grants, program development, building new partnerships, etc. That array of tasks really breaks up the day and it's a lot of fun coming to work. In addition to that, the people I have the opportunity to work with is great. From our volunteers, to city leaders, to our partner groups, there is always a lot of energy in our offices and it's because we have great people working on behalf of WMS to improve our downtown.

### Where do you see the program in the next year?

Much bigger. On a couple of different fronts we need to grow the important programs and projects that we currently undertake. Staff and board are aggressively seeking new sources of funding to help sustain and grow our organization. In partnership with Michigan Main Street/MEDC we are one of the communities that is piloting the MAIN STREET REFRESH. Ultimately this will mean that our organization will

See **Director**, page 13

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### CALENDAR, Continued from page 4

and an apartment will be added for an on-site manager.

### Let's get mama married!

Cornwell's Turkeyville will be the destination of the Wayne Sometimes Travelers on Wednesday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Enjoy a lunch of fresh carved turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, vegetable, casserole, rolls, dessert, and coffee or tea while watching a performance of "Getting Mama Married," a warm loving comedy filled with funny situations and delightful characters. Cost of the trip is \$84. For reservations and information, contact the Wayne Senior Services Office at (734) 721-7460.

### Annual used car sale

Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union will be holding their 4th annual Used Auto Sale on Saturday, May 20, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in their parking lot at 500 S. Wayne Rd. There will be over 35 autos from North Brothers Ford featured. Rates are as low as 2.95% APR. There will be loan officers ready to approve loans. Refreshments will be served. The sale will be held rain or shine.

### Percussion group wins state championship

Wayne Memorial Winter Percussion Ensemble competed recently in the Michigan Color Guard Circuit, winning their second consecutive state championship in the Concert Percussion classification. The competition took place at Saginaw Valley State University. The ensemble scored 86.55, six points higher than last year's championship score and one of the highest scores ever recorded in the classification.

The group is led by ZMB percussion instructor and WMP Director Andy Broekhuizen, Assistant Director Pat Brown, Sarah Oren, Kyle Watts, and A.J. Cook. The group has been rehearsing since December and has had competitions at West Bloomfield, Milford, and Troy Athens before the championship finals. The students involved are: Kiera Matiska, Gina Gunter, Bret Roebuck, Zackary



### New police officer in Wayne

Chad Hassen was officially sworn in to the Wayne Police Department on April 5 by City Clerk Matthew Miller.

Cuvelier, Audrey Sabal, Monique Hendryx, Stephen Ambrus, Conor Radtke, Karen Hernandez, Sydney Matiska, Diana Orozco, Justin Nicolai, Alex Sambrone, Gavin Vaughan, Cheyenne Kittel, Ciara Raymond, Caleb Anway, and Fabian Anez-Broccardo (8th grade - Franklin Middle School).

To ask how you can become a Friend of Wayne Memorial Instrumental Music, please contact Director Matt Diroff at WMHS, 3001 Fourth, Wayne, MI 48184.

### Wayne Rotary gives check to police department

Wayne Rotary representative Lois Van Stipdonk presented a check for \$2825.67 to Police Chief Alan Maciag at the April 4 city council meeting. The check represented funds that were raised at The Dueling Pianos fundraiser held in March.

### Gateway to Lenawee

Join the Wayne Sometimes Travelers as they venture on a trip Friday, June 23, to Lenawee. The trip, departing from the Westland Friendship Center at 7:30 a.m., will take you to 755-acre arboretum and botanical garden Hidden Lake Gar-

dens in the Irish Hills for a narrated tour, lunch at JR's Hometown Grill and Pub (9-oz sirloin steak, pan-fried tilapia or pineapple bourbon chicken), free time shopping in Tecumseh, a tour of Cabela's-World Foremost Outfitter (along with shopping), and a stop at Russell Stover Candies for an ice cream sundae. The bus will return at 6:30 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$69. For reservations and information, contact the Wayne Senior Services Office at (734) 721-7460.

### Families Against Narcotics

Opioid addiction is on the rise and affects more than just those who are addicted. The Westland Police Department would like the public to know about the Families Against Narcotics (FAN) chapter that has been formed in Wayne County. FAN is dedicated to eliminating the stigma associated with addiction and providing families struggling with the disease the support and resources they need.

Meetings of the Wayne County FAN chapter are the first Monday of the month 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at LifeChurch Annex located at 6900 N. Haggerty Rd. in Canton. These meetings are open and free to the public.

If you need help, please take advantage of this free program. For more information, please visit [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org)

### A night of dueling pianos at St. Mary School

Join St. Mary Catholic School as they host three hours of live entertainment by The Dueling Pianos International. Tickets include appetizers, dinner and two drinks. A cash bar will be available. There will also be basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and live auction with exciting prizes. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple. The event will be held on Saturday, May 13, 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic School, 34516 Michigan Avenue, Wayne. For more information and tickets, please email [auction@stmarywayne.org](mailto:auction@stmarywayne.org)

### Charity car show coming soon

The Wayne Masonic Temple is hosting a Charity Car Show on June 10 at the lodge located at 37137 Palmer Rd in Westland. The event is 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Anyone who has a car they would like to show off is welcome to participate; a classic car is not required. The fee will be \$15 to park and show-off your car; you will also receive a goodie bag. All you have to do is show up that morning, pay the fee, park and enjoy the day sharing your car with others. For those who like to admire cars, admission is free to walk around and talk to car owners. Parking for viewers will be across the street. Proceeds from the event will go toward programs for the Demolays and Rainbows, the youth groups of the Masons. The poster advertising the event was created by a graphic arts student at the William D. Ford Technical Center.

### Memorial Day parade

The annual Wayne/Westland Memorial Day parade will be Sunday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. The parade will be held in Westland again this year. It will start at the Ford Civic League parking lot on Wayne Rd and head north to the Westland Library Veterans Memorial.



**DIRECTOR,** Continued from page 11

adopt a specific strategy that will inform all of the projects we undertake. It will also mean that we need to make sure that we demonstrate the impact we have in terms of improving downtown Wayne and helping our community and local businesses succeed.

**What are you doing to educate yourself about WMS?**

Michigan Main Street and the National Main Street Center does a fantastic job of providing training and orientation resources to new directors like me. In late January the program manager from Michigan Main Street met with me and provided a personal orientation and a training manual that have been very helpful. Additionally, I will be attending quarterly trainings throughout the year to keep up to speed with what is going on around Michigan and in Main Street Communities nationally. In early March I also attended New Director Training in Lansing, and I can't tell you how helpful that was. Additionally, our board and community has extensive knowledge about



the Main Street program and WMS specifically, so I also have learned a lot from working with those folks, asking a lot of questions, and continuing to be curious.

**What is your educational and work experience background? How does that help you in this position?**

Educational background – I graduated from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA in 2008 with a BA in Political Science/History. I am currently enrolled at the University of Windsor in the Graduate Studies program for Political Science.

**Work Experience**

I have worked in the non-profit field for 8 years. My work has primarily been in public health & HIV/AIDS work, focusing on fund development and volunteer coordina-

tion.

I think both my intellectual curiosity in history and public affairs really helps in my role at WMS because our focus on improving downtown Wayne starts by looking at revitalization through the lens of historical preservation. Additionally, our partnership with the City of Wayne on almost all our projects is so important to our organization.

In terms of my professional experience, because our organization is currently in a position where we need to find new sources of funding and increase the overall scope of our work; my experience in fund development is helpful in accomplishing these priorities.

**How is this position the same as your previous non-profit work and how is it different?**

I have worked for a number of non-profit organizations and you start to see a lot of similarities from organization to organization. I can say that even though the type of work we do at WMS is completely different from the work I had done in previous organizations, there are a lot of parallels. One example of this would be with funding; funding is one of the biggest challenges all non-profits face, and it's up to organizations to come up with innovative solutions and programs in order to remain competitive for sources of support.

One difference I have found so far is that the community in Wayne is uniquely engaged in civic and community life. This is true with our volunteers who go out of their way to make our initiatives successful. The community also shows their support through engagement on social media and participation in our community projects. Key to our success long term will be harnessing that enthusiasm into projects that make a significant, sustained impact on downtown Wayne.

**What are your goals for WMS in the upcoming months?**

We really have a lot planned for the balance of the year, all exciting stuff that I am thrilled about. On an organization-level, continuing to roll-out the Main Street Refresh is a top priority. In terms of our programs, from the DIA Inside/Out Project to our Jazz on the Avenue event, to our beautification and improvement efforts there is a lot we are doing to help revitalize downtown Wayne. One project in particular that I am excited about is the development of a pocket park along W. Michigan Ave called Derby's Alley. Once completed the alley space/park will serve as a community gathering and events space. Finally, in terms of being able to sustain Wayne Main Street we are seeking additional funding with the goal of investing in our programs and help make Wayne even better!

*If you would like to support Wayne Main Street, please visit [downtownwayne.org](http://downtownwayne.org) to learn about sponsorship opportunities or to make an online donation. You could send a check payable to Wayne Main Street to PO Box 327, Wayne MI 48184 or drop it off during business hours. You can also support WMS by making your Amazon orders through Amazon Smile and indicating "Wayne Ripple Effect" as the organization to donate to online. You can register your Kroger Plus card with the community rewards program at <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>*

*Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card by entering NPO number 70316 or Wayne Ripple Effect for the list provided. WMS is always open to new volunteers, whether you want to help with short term or long term projects. Contact Maxwell at (734) 629-6822 or email him at [director@downtownwayne.org](mailto:director@downtownwayne.org)*

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**GIRL to Another**

The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.



**AFRICA**, Continued from page 3

girls about hygiene and menstruation. "The principal was very kind, she met with us, we signed a guest book, and then she escorted us to the room with the secondary school girls," Krysta stated. The team was greeted by a female translator Lynet, who would help them explain to the girls how important hygiene was and understanding the process of menstruation and how to produce the reusable shields and liners themselves. "The schools in Africa teach English to all of their students, however they do not teach slang words, so when I would speak for the translator to translate, the girls would laugh because I used slang," Krysta said with a smile.

**ABOUT DAYS FOR GIRLS**

The team's mission was to bring hygiene products for the girls and teach them how to use the reusable liners made possible by the organization "Days For Girls." This organization puts together DFG Kits. Each 'kit' comes with 2 fabric snap on shields (each containing four absorbent fabric liners), 2 pair of underwear, 1 wash cloth and 1 bar of soap all tucked into a zip lock bag and then placed into a colorful fabric draw string bag

**DAYS FOR GIRLS MISSION**

A world where every woman and girl has ready access to hygiene solutions. Days for Girls envisions a world where menstruation is no longer a source of shame and taboo. Days for Girls is working to shift how women and girls see themselves and are seen by their communities. We offer girls and women new life choices and spur narrative change, through providing sustainable hygiene solutions, health education, and income-generation opportunities.

Days for Girls is dedicated to creating a free, dignified, and educated world, through providing lasting access to feminine hygiene solutions and health education. Thus far, Days for Girls has provided Kits and health education to over 640,000 women and girls in over 100 countries, both through volunteer Chapters & Teams and through our Enterprise model. Days For Girls Kits are only the beginning. Kits are



Krysta Forrester and translator Isaac Kasura in Africa.

a gateway to vital conversations around health, safety, and leadership. Days for Girl is committed to supporting a girl throughout her entire lifecycle, from providing her with a Days For Girls Kit, to teaching her health education, to offering training for her when she grows older, so that she can produce Days For Girls Kits and support hygiene needs in her community.

**THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES**

The first stop was successful, most of the older girls had some understanding of menstruation, either through a mother, sibling, aunt, grandma or teacher. "Our team brought over 1,300 Days For Girls Kits. We each had a carryon bag and we checked a bag, the checked bag we filled with Days For Girls Kits. We had a 50 pound limit for the checked bag, but the kits were light and we were able to get a lot in each bag" Krysta said. "One of the schools we visited was on a mountain, we were dropped off at the bottom, given our luggage full of Days For Girls Kits and it was up to us to get them up to the school," Krysta stated. "One of the girls from the school lifted my bag and put it on her head and carried it all the way up the mountain like it was nothing," she said. "It took us 35 minutes to get up there, the people in Africa carry stuff on their heads all the time," Krysta said. This school was

called Emmatsi Primary & Secondary School. "We were very well received by all of the schools we visited, I think the African people associate visitors with help," Krysta stated. The girls were also intrigued by Krysta's skin tone and her long hair, the girls liked to touch Krysta's hair and lean on her and put her hair over their heads. "While they had no running water, showers or food in their pantry, the abundance of poverty all around them, they don't see the imbalance of what others have. They are very happy and they celebrate everything," Krysta said. Statistics show that half of all Kenyans live below the poverty level and preventable diseases like HIV/aids, diarrhea, malnutrition, etc. make it hard for workers to stay healthy and therefore making it hard for them to earn money for their families.

The team then headed to Narok which was in the mountains so less malaria risk. The translators Isaac and his brother Anthony are from Narok where the people there speak Masai, their own language not Swahili like most African people in this region. Temperatures still remained in the 90's in the mountains of Narok. The team had accommodations in a small motel called Transist Motel. While they were here in the hometown of Isaac and Anthony, they were able to take advantage of using the safari business internet to contact family back in the states. "I told my mom that I might be coming back from Africa but part of my heart will stay in Africa," Krysta said. The last school we visited was in Masai Mara, the safari section of the region. The team stayed in a hotel called Entumoto Safari Camp. Since Isaac and Anthony were Safari guides, they took the team on Safari while they were here and they were able to see beautiful animals native to that region. "We saw Giraffes, and I got to feed one, we saw zebras, cheetahs, hippos, lions and elephants," Krysta said. "We even had a picnic right in the middle of the safari under one of the cute Lion King trees," she said.

With her compassionate journey to Africa complete, Krysta has decided she wants to do more. Within days of her return from Africa she has already connected with a group that will be going to Haiti to share the Days For Girls mission. Krysta will be leaving June 7th with the Felecan Sisters of Madonna University, to visit Jacmel, Haiti for a 10 day mission trip. To learn more about the Days For Girls organization, please visit [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org) You can help make a difference in a girl's life!



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Jason Bates  
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# State Rep. Kosowski named legislator of the year

The Michigan Municipal League has honored State Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) as the League's 2017 Legislator of the Year. The award was formally presented to Rep. Kosowski during the League's annual Capital Conference Awards Gala March 21 in Lansing.

Rep. Kosowski represents Michigan's 16th House District, which comprises the entire city of Wayne and a portion of the city of Westland.

Rep. Kosowski is serving his third term in the House, and before serving in the Legislature he worked as the City of Westland Parks and Recreation director. He worked for Westland for more than 20 years. He was also a member of many advisory boards. Kosowski studied business management at Adrian College and Wayne State University. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two sons: Andrew and Austin. The family has resided in Westland for nearly 20 years.

Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe presented Rep. Kosowski with the

award. "During his time in the state House, Representative Kosowski has distinguished himself as a thoughtful policy maker and earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle," Rowe said. "Representative Kosowski has proven time and again that he values good policy over partisanship. His door is always open to the League and his constituents. The League looks forward to working in partnership with him through the remainder of his time in Lansing."

Rep. Kosowski has been an outspoken, supportive voice on numerous issues that have been critical to the Michigan Municipal League and its member communities, including his leadership in attempting to restore cuts to revenue sharing, protecting Tax Increment Financing as an economic development tool, and supporting government immunity in the event of sewer backups during extreme rainfall, Rowe said.

The Legislator of the Year Award is presented each year to

lawmakers for their instrumental actions in the Michigan State Legislature on behalf of local communities. These individuals are recognized for their efforts in the passage of legislation that will benefit local governments or who have fought consistently to support local government.

Michigan Municipal League is dedicated to making Michigan's communities better by thoughtfully innovating programs, energetically connecting ideas and people, actively serving members with resources and services, and passionately inspiring positive change for Michigan's greatest centers of potential: its communities. The League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington, D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services. Learn more at [mml.org](http://mml.org).



State Rep. Robert Kosowski Michigan Municipal League's 2017 Legislator of the Year.



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