



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD
Nomination Form

Nominee

Name: Renee Johnston

Company: Saginaw Community Foundation

Address: 1 Tuscola Ave

City: Saginaw State: MI ZIP: 48607

Phone: 989 755 0545 Email: renee@saginawfoundation.org

Nominator

Name: Laura B Yockey

Company: 1st State Bank

Address: 4800 Fashion Square Blvd

City: Saginaw State: MI ZIP: 48604

Phone: 989 415 7728 Email: lauray@1ststate.bank

About the Nominee:

On a separate sheet, describe the nominee, listing how he/she meets the award criteria.

Supporting Documents:

Please contact 1-2 individuals to supply supporting documentation to accompany your nomination form. Support documents can take the form of letters, emails, news articles, etc.

Submission:

Return completed nominations to

Lisa Dobbins, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Saginaw, MI 48607
or by email to lisa@saginawchamber.org

Nominatin deadline: April 30th

Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the following year.

Renee Johnston – President & CEO, Saginaw Community Foundation

Renee is a proud native of Saginaw, Michigan. She graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in 1989 and continued on to receive a Bachelors degree in history/pre-law from Alma College in Alma, Michigan. To follow her dreams to pursue a law degree, Renee attended Valparaiso University School of Law, where she attained her *Juris Doctorate* in 1996.

After graduating from law school, Renee began her 9 year career with Delphi Corporation (Delphi Steering) in Saginaw. Her Delphi experience began with a position as an HR Representative, and from there she held positions in lean manufacturing, manufacturing management and HR Administration. Renee then transferred to a Delphi division in Troy, Michigan, where she held the position as an HR Manager. At that time, Renee and her husband moved to the Auburn Hills, Michigan area.

Two years later, Renee had the opportunity to change careers, and was offered the position as President & CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the quality of life for all the people of Saginaw County. The foundation is both a grantmaker and a grantseeker. It exercises philanthropic leadership and acts as a catalyst in identifying community needs and opportunities. The Foundation often works in partnership with others in addressing those needs. The Foundation is building permanent endowments to meet the changing needs of Saginaw County. It makes grants and raises funds for a wide variety of charitable purposes, including education, the arts, human service, health and welfare, economic development and civic improvement.

In addition to her leadership with the Foundation, Renee played a role with the development of the Heroes for Kids fundraiser; Saginaw County's Promise; the Youth First program; Art & About.

Renee is also a sustaining member of the Junior League of Saginaw Valley, another non-profit organization. In the past, she has held the positions as Program Chair, President-Elect and President. Renee enjoys being a part of this organization whose purpose is to develop the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Recently she was awarded with the Gold Rose, Junior League recognition.

In 2005, Renee was one of twelve to be the first recipients of the Ruby Award. Also, in 2005, the Saginaw Community Foundation received the "Outstanding Foundation of the Year" award sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2008, Renee was awarded the Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the year award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2014, she was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Board of Medicine, and she was named as one of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Honorees. In 2018, she was honored with the Richard Calley Distinguished Service Award by the Saginaw County Department of Public Health,

which she also serves on the Board. In addition serves on the Board of Directors for Council of Michigan Foundations, Covenant Hospital and the Saginaw Club.

Renee her husband Mark, daughter Bella (15), and son Nicholas (12) live in the city of Saginaw. They both enjoy raising their family in their home town, close to their family and friends. Renee's hobbies include volunteering, coordinating events, sports, running, dancing, traveling, shopping and spending time with friends and family.

Resume

RENEE JOHNSTON, JD

Professional Preparation

Valparaiso University School of Law	Law	Juris Doctor Degree	1996
Study Abroad	Cambridge, England		1994
Alma College	History and Pre-Law	Bachelor of Arts	1992
Study Abroad	Australia		1992

Appointments

Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw, MI

President & CEO

Dec 2004 – present

Responsible for all aspects of the Foundation's work, including development, public relations, philanthropic services, financial management and grantmaking, with the oversight and direction of the Board. Responsible for works effectively in partnership with the Board, fund donors, staff, other foundations, agencies and the community-at-large to further the goals and objectives of the Saginaw Community Foundation. Responsible for providing leadership to the Board and staff in identifying and implementing strategic initiatives that expand the Foundation's capacity to serve the community. He/she is specifically responsible for promoting and stimulating philanthropy in Saginaw County, Michigan, fostering a general public awareness and understanding of the Foundation, participating in and supporting the work of other community groups and agencies to advance common goals, implementing cooperative and joint efforts of local public and private organizations, and effective grantmaking to address community needs.

Delphi Automotive, Troy, MI

HR Manager

May 2003 – December 2004

Responsible for the staffing of 10 employees and overseeing the HR operations for the division.

Delphi Automotive, Saginaw, MI

Senior HR Specialist

May 2002 – May 2003

Responsible for providing and reviewing information for the company's executive advisory committee. Responsible for international relations and HR specialist for companies ex-patriots.

Assistant Superintendant

May 2001 – May 2002

Responsible for managing and overseeing operations of four assembly lines. Responsible for their financials, head count, training, and overall production of assembly line, which includes quality and control.

Lean Manufacturing Specialist

September 1999 – March 2001

Responsible for developing, implementing and the facilitation of lean manufacturing facilities for factory.

Leadership

Junior League of Saginaw Valley

- President, 2002-2003
- President Elect, 2001-2002
- Program Chair, 1999-2001

Honors and Awards

Michigan Board of Medicine, appointment by Governor Rick Snyder, 2014

Outstanding Fundraising Executive, Mid-Michigan Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals, 2008

Saginaw Community Foundation awarded 2006 Award for Outstanding Foundation, Mid-Michigan Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals, 2006

Ruby Award Recipient, 2006

May 9, 2022

Ms. Lisa Dobbins
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor
Saginaw, MI 48607
lisa@saginawchamber.org

Dear Lisa:

I am submitting my nomination of Renee Johnston for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award. Renee is a Saginaw native and spent nearly a decade working at Delphi Corp (now Nexteer) in Saginaw before joining the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) in 2004 as its Executive Director. At that time SCF was a 20-year-old organization with assets totaling \$30 million, while today the assets of SCF are over \$90 million!!! The Saginaw Community Foundation administers more than 400 charitable funds and over 200 scholarships plus coordinates more than 500 volunteers annually... in addition to granting over \$4.5 million to various organizations that support the needs of residents and businesses in Saginaw County!

The mission of the Saginaw Community Foundation is: **We bring people and resources together to build an equitable community, making a lasting philanthropic impact.**

She has been honored with a Ruby Award in 2005 and was named the Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2008. In her earlier years as the Director of the SCF she has played a role with the development of the Heroes of Kids fundraiser, the Youth First Program, City of Hope Committee, Downtown Saginaw Association, Step Up Saginaw, and the Deindorfer Woods Park restoration. She is a sustaining member of Junior League of Saginaw Valley and was the former President.

In more recent years Renee has served on the Covenant Healthcare Board of Directors, Council of Michigan Foundations Board, Community Health Improvement Plan, Riverfront Saginaw Commission, Bishops Breakfast leadership council and the ARPA Committee for the City of Saginaw...among many others. During the 2020 pandemic, flood and civil unrest Renee and the staff of the foundation took a leadership role to start an emergency fund for flood and food relief to help those in desperate need of those services in a relatively short period of time. Renee goes above and beyond in everything she does not only through her work as the leader of the Saginaw Community Foundation, but also to help transform the Saginaw community through her many other volunteer, church, and civic activities. She does all of this while raising two children along with her husband Mark Johnston.

She has a very high level of dedication and unwavering commitment to the Saginaw community as has been demonstrated throughout her career... and she is an inspiration to all who know her!

Laura B Yockey

1st State Bank
SVP, Business Lending Manager
W: 989.596.0842 C: 989.415.7728



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May 20, 2022

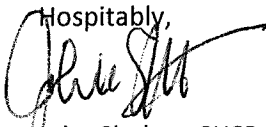
Dear Veronica,

I'm writing to you today in my support of Renee Johnston CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation for the 2022 Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award.

Renee a lifelong resident of Saginaw has been a tremendous asset to the community (especially for the underserved and underrepresented) providing her time, talent, resources and compassion to organizations, donors, and peers throughout the Great Lakes Bay region. As Foundation CEO Renee has played significant roles in the development of the Heroes for Kids' fundraiser, Saginaw County's promise, youth first and art and about programs. Under her leadership the Saginaw Foundation in 2005 received the Outstanding Foundation of the Year award and in 2005 Renee was one of the first recipients of the Ruby award. Renee has also been honored with the Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the Year in 2008 by the Association of Fundraising professionals.

Renee is very active in the community and state serving on boards of the Covenant Healthcare Systems, Council of Michigan Foundations, Michigan Board of Medicine, Saginaw County Department of Public Health and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Saginaw County holding leadership positions of program chair and president.

Veronica these are just a few of the reasons I proudly support and encourage the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce to recognize Renee Johnston as your 2022 Community Impact award recipient.

Hospitably,

John Shelton CHSP
VP Sales and Marketing

Friday, May 20th, 2022

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

515 N Washington Ave.

Saginaw, MI 48607

Dear Nomination Committee:

It is with great joy I write to support Renee Johnston's nomination for the *Saginaw County Community Impact Award*. I do not need to list her accomplishments as they are well known. Instead, I would like to speak about her mentorship and community support expertise.

When I met Renee Johnston in 2014, I was new to my passion for bettering the lives of Saginaw County residents. She encouraged my enthusiasm and recommended various ways I could become involved in the community, including inviting me to sit on the Saginaw Community Foundation board the following year. Renee set me on a course that has led me to where I am today. I consider myself in her debt.

I wholeheartedly support Renee receiving the Community Impact Award because what she has done for me, she has done for countless others. She has an optimistic trust that allows for creativity and positive change across all industries.

Again, I support Renee receiving this award because how would any of us have gotten here without her? I believe in a better Saginaw, and Renee has her hand on the helm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Felicia Rose-Barry