

COMMUNITY PARTNER: RICHARD LATIMER

THE NEXT AWARD REQUIRES A BIT OF ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION:

TWICE BEFORE, THE CFF BOARD HAS RECOGNIZED AN INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS WHO HAS MADE A PARTICULARLY STRONG BOND WITH C.F.F. AS AN ORGANIZATION. THIS WILL ONLY BE THE THIRD TIME THAT WE HAVE DONE SO. AND, THIS YEAR, WE RECOGNIZE RICHARD LATIMER AS OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER.

A FEW YEARS AGO, RICHARD BEGAN A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN MEMORY OF HIS PARTNER, WILLIAM CRONIN. THE WILLIAM L. CRONIN DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO SUBMIT A COMPELLING ESSAY ON THE ISSUE OF DIVERSITY. I WILL INVITE RICHARD TO SPEAK ABOUT THE PERSONAL SIDE OF THIS PROJECT, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK VERY BRIEFLY ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SIDE OF THE PROJECT.

FERNDALE IS A COMMUNITY IN WHICH DIVERSITY IS PARTICULARLY PRESENT, ESPECIALLY IN OUR SCHOOLS, WHICH AS FAR MORE RACIALLY DIVERSE THAN THE CITY ITSELF. DIVERSITY IS ALSO VALUED AND RESPECTED, AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE PROMINENCE OF L.G.B.T. PEOPLE, EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS. FURTHERMORE, RESPECT OR DIVERSITY GOES TO THE VERY HEART OF THE MISSION OF C.F.F.

WE WERE HONORED LAST YEAR WHEN RICHARD APPROACHED US LAST YEAR TO PARTNER WITH HIM IN THIS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE CHEVRON CORPORATION. C.F.F. HOPES TO CULTIVATE THIS RELATIONSHIP, AND PERHAPS, IN THE FUTURE, TO GROW THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS EVEN FURTHER.

THANK YOU, RICHARD, FOR BEING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER.