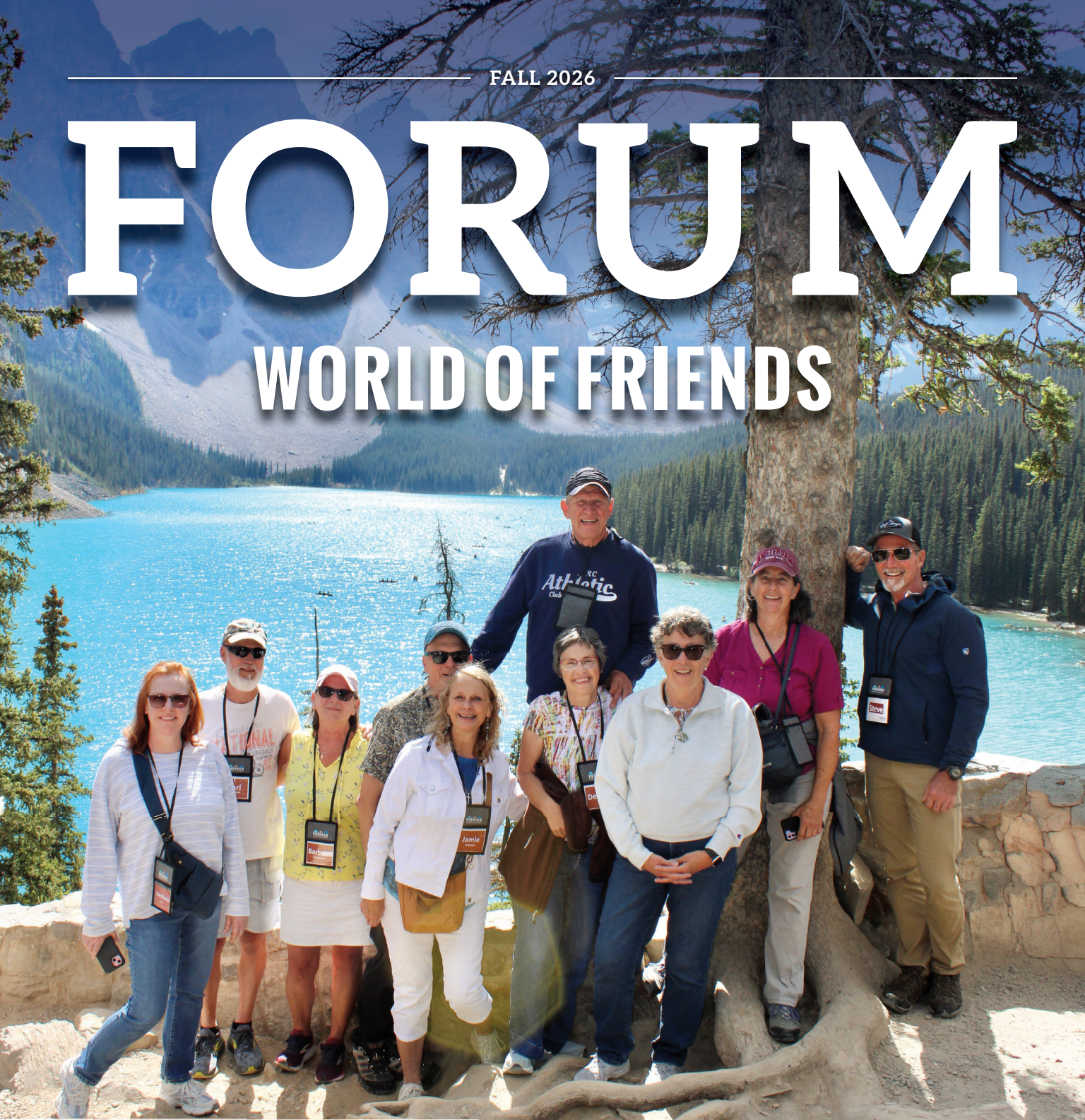
FALL 2026

FORUM

WORLD OF FRIENDS



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2026 scholarship recipients

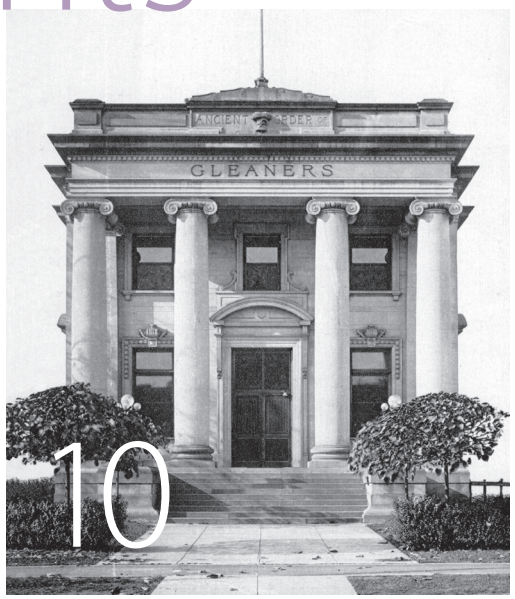
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Gleaner
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Front cover: Gleaner Life members, friends and family enjoyed the Society's 2026 activities. One event was the Gleaner Getaway trip in August to the Canadian Rockies. Several trip participants were pictured above Moraine Lake, a glacial lake located within Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada.

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Get more online!

We have more stories, more photos and great information in our digital version of this edition online at ***www.gleanerlife.org/Forum***.



FORUM

Fall 2026 / V. 131 / No. 4

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For questions regarding this publication, please email forum@gleanerlife.org.



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Laura Mae Sage, *Wayland*

Missouri
Susan M. Yahl, *Kirksville*

New Hampshire
Richard Tripp, *Derry*

Stay tuned for 2027 Family Day locations

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Family Days this past year. We're busy placing the final touches on next year's events. Be the first to know by joining our email list. Visit *www.gleanerlife.org/email* to stay informed about Family Days and all of your Gleaner member benefits.



Do you enjoy searching for Gleaner's wheat stalk?

It's hidden in every issue of *Forum Magazine*. Having difficulty finding the wheat stalk in this issue? Look on Page 26 for the answer.

Forum Magazine is made from soy-based ink products and is recyclable.

Make a small impact on conservation by recycling this publication or passing it on to a friend.

Thoughts from the President



Dear Fellow Members of the Gleaner Family,

Fall has always been a season of harvest, a time to appreciate what has been planted, recognize the work that produced it, and give thanks for the blessings we have received.

For Gleaner, whose roots reach back to farming communities more than 130 years ago, that imagery seems especially fitting. The men and women who built this Society understood that a successful harvest required hard work, patience, cooperation, and faith. They also understood something about stewardship. You care for what has been entrusted to you, not only for your own benefit, but for those who will come after you.

That responsibility remains with us today.

In September, we held our first Virtual State of the Society, giving members an opportunity to hear directly from Gleaner's Board and leadership during an off-convention year. We shared encouraging news about our financial strength, growing sales, products, service, and the tremendous work our members continue to do in communities across the country.

Most importantly, I hope members came away with confidence in Gleaner's direction.

Our Board of Directors plays an important role in that direction. Gleaner is a member-owned Society, and our Board represents the long-term interests of our members. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified and engaged group of directors who bring significant professional experience to their responsibility. They take their role as stewards of this Society seriously, asking thoughtful questions, providing oversight, and working with management to ensure the decisions we make today strengthen Gleaner for the future.

There is much to be thankful for.

More families are choosing Gleaner for life insurance. Our annuity business continues to grow. More independent agents are choosing to partner with us. And our Home Office employees continue to demonstrate that personal, responsive service still matters.

Those are encouraging signs of momentum, but they also remind us that growth brings responsibility.

Our success is measured by more than financial results or sales. Throughout the country, Gleaner members are volunteering their time, supporting local organizations, helping neighbors, providing scholarships, and finding countless other ways to strengthen their communities. That spirit of service has been part of Gleaner since its beginning, and it remains one of the things that makes our Society uniquely special.

As we look toward the future, our responsibility is to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us: the financial strength of the Society, the trust of our members, the relationships we have with our agents, the communities we serve, and the mission passed down through generations of Gleaner members.

We have been blessed with much. And with those blessings comes the responsibility to leave future generations a strong and enduring Society, financially sound, committed to service, and still guided by the ideals that set Gleaner apart from the beginning.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am grateful for our members, our Board, our agents, and our employees. I am also thankful for God's continued blessings on this Society and pray for His wisdom and guidance as we continue the work entrusted to us.

From all of us at Gleaner, I wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving season.

With gratitude,

Todd M. Warner

Todd M. Warner
President and CEO

Virtual State of the Society highlights growth and financial strength

Gleaner Life's 2026 Virtual State of the Society provided members with an inside look at the Society's financial strength, business performance, member impact and vision for the future. Members heard from Gleaner Life's executive team, including Board of Directors Chair Stephanie Andresen. "At the end of the day, because we're a member-owned society, our top priority on the board is protecting and serving your long-term interests," she noted.

The first-time, non-convention year address reported Gleaner remains financially strong, and more families are choosing the Society for life insurance and annuities. Through July, total premiums were 36% higher than during the same period in 2025. The amount of new life insurance issued reached more than $103 million, compared with about $27 million a year earlier. Leaders also discussed continued work to improve products, services and the experience of doing business with Gleaner.

The presentation also highlighted Gleaner's enduring fraternal mission and the many ways the Society connects with and supports its members and communities — from Arbor activities and community service to Family Days, scholarships, member benefits and other opportunities to build lasting connections. "We are not simply a company that sells life insurance products and annuities," President and CEO Todd Warner noted. "We are a member-owned society that provides financial protection with service, community and care for one another. That difference matters. It defines us. It unites us." Donna Baker, Board Vice Chair, thanked members for their trust, support and, most importantly, their service. She emphasized that Gleaner is balancing its traditions with modernizations "and thoughtful change, where it is needed."

If you missed the presentation, you can watch the recording at *www.gleanerlife.org/stateofsociety*.



DISCOVERING A WORLD OF FRIENDS

"Friends" isn't just a 1990s TV comedy series. It's why Gleaner Life was founded 132 years ago this fall, to support one another and take action to enrich life itself. Friends share our joys and burdens, they love us despite our imperfections, and they provide companionship. (The Society's original name for a member in good standing was a "Companion.")

Long before sociologists warned about the "epidemic of loneliness," rural farmers recognized how friendships create networks of trust — the basis of what today is called "social capital." Gleaner founders were inspired by the biblical story of Ruth the Gleaner and her unwavering friendship with her mother-in-law, Naomi ("Where you go, I will go. … Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." — Ruth 1:16). Ruth's loyalty amid difficulty was rewarded in surprising ways.

Our own friendships can also grow unexpectedly, whether by showing up at a service project, joining a trip, or even attending fifth grade together. Gleaner friends can smile as they tell their stories.

New connection for former classmates

Dorothy Luckett and Marla Coon can tell each other's story nearly word-for-word. It began in 1980 in Breckenridge, Michigan, where two girls with the same middle name met in a fifth-grade class taught by David Briggs. Dorothy Jean Rooks wore cowboy boots and was raised on a homestead with farm animals. Marla Jean Sanger was a doctor's daughter, carefree and creative. Both, though, were raised by Christian parents. After Marla's family moved away the following year, she sent Dorothy a pen pal request, signed "Marla Jean Jelly Bean."

Five years later, Marla moved back and the two resumed where they'd left off. They cruised Alma's strip in Marla's 1964 Ford Galaxie ("The Boat"), and enjoyed homemade hot dog pizzas at Dorothy's house. After graduating, they took different life paths. Marla graduated from MJ Murphy School of Cosmetology, and Dorothy plunged into the business world.

In 2013, they unexpectedly reconnected at a community "Breakfast on the Farm" event, and Dorothy followed up by contacting Marla. They still shared a deep faith in God, and they both needed a friend who understood life's challenges. Through her business work at a hospital, Dorothy had become involved with



Marla Coon and Dorothy Luckett, shown at SkyLand Ranch in Tennessee.

Gleaner Life Insurance Society and was President of Alma Arbor, which urgently needed a Secretary. It took a while but, eventually, Marla agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. The two use their complementary skills. Marla has a notepad filled with ideas for future Gleaner projects, community events, and activities. "Across will be Dorothy, armed with her trusty spreadsheets, budgets, calculator and determination for success," Marla noted.

The two still enjoy their girl vacations ("One keeps the 'keys' from getting lost while the other keeps 'us' from getting lost," Dorothy points out), as well as couples' trips with their husbands. Once in a while, at Gleaner events, they may even see David Briggs and his wife, Loretta. Dorothy and Marla's fifth-grade teacher serves as President of Breckenridge's Plank Arbor, and was named Gleaner Life's Fraternalist of the Year in 2025.

"What began as two very different girls sharing a classroom and the same middle name has become a lifelong friendship," Marla wrote, "a sisterhood rooted in faith, strengthened by service, and guided by God's plan every step of the way."

That common ground has enabled two ladies with sharply different backgrounds, personalities, and strengths to share both the highways and bumpy roads of life's journey.

Couples grow on Gleaner journeys

For other friends, Gleaner became a common thread connecting travel opportunities, relatives, and friends' service projects. Cindy Pula and Jill Rummler-Lenz are first cousins who grew up in Michigan's Saginaw Bay region. Jill moved away to southern Michigan after high school, and both married and raised families. Jill eventually became friends with another couple, Jamie and Jim Anderson, through children and church. When Jill's second husband, Mark Lenz, began working at Gleaner's Home Office and became interested in Gleaner trips, the group discovered another connection: Cindy's husband, Don, is a lifelong Gleaner member. (His father was an officer with Standish Arbor in the 1960s.)

The timing was perfect since the Pulas had recently retired. The two couples invited the Andersons to join them on Gleaner's 2024 trip to Sedona, Arizona. "When we joined the Gleaner trip to the Grand Canyon, as guests, we had never been involved with Gleaner but had known of them because we live so close to Adrian, Michigan," Jamie recalled. "Wow! The people were so nice. The details were all attended to. When we got home we bought an annuity so that we could be Gleaner members." In addition to visiting the Grand Canyon, taking two train trips, and viewing stunning Arizona scenery, Don and the trip's guide led an in-depth discussion aboard the bus one night about painter Bob Ross — an unexpected trip highlight.

The experience also helped attract Gleaner member assistance for two projects: a Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed-building chapter, with which the Andersons and Lenzes volunteer; and a Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child gift drop-off center, which Jamie has managed as a volunteer for 15 years and Jill had managed previously. The six reunited in August for the Gleaner trip to the Canadian Rockies, adding memories of glaciers and lakes while making more connections.

"One of the Gleaner members we met on the Sedona trip helped with Operation Christmas Child. It shows her heart for service," Jamie wrote. "It seems that when you get involved volunteering in 'care service projects' you meet the



Sharing a laugh at an airport diner (from left) Don and Cindy Pula show off a pack of Bob Ross memo notes that Don received as a gift from Jamie Anderson. Jill Lenz watches at right.

nicest, honest, authentic people. Yes, there are good people in the world, and that brings peace to your soul."

Leaders navigate changes together

Even long-time members can find new friendships in Gleaner activities. In 1997, Sue Hammersmith was about to join Gleaner Life's Board of Directors. She and her husband, James, began attending more arbor and state meetings in Ohio. At one of these, they met Toledo-area couple Leo and Sharon Knox.

They soon realized they had much in common. James is a finish carpenter by trade, and Leo volunteered many years with Maumee Valley (Toledo) Habitat for Humanity, a cause the Hammersmiths supported when they renovated their house. "I like to joke that we donated everything but the kitchen sink to the Lenawee Habitat for Humanity," Sue noted, "however we actually did donate our kitchen sink and the faucet." Sharon and Sue both like to read, which led to another discovery. When Sue's mother-in-law passed, they found her book bag from the Toledo-Lucas County Library system. When they returned the books, they were surprised to learn that Sharon worked for the home delivery program of the library.

As Leo and Sharon's arbor sunsetted away, they were invited by Sue and James to join South Fairfield (OH) Arbor. There, they helped with the annual 4-H Goats and "Udder" Things awards dinner, local beautification projects, Toledo Walleye hockey trips with 4-H, and school supply collections, in addition to trips together. They all took part in the 2025 Gleaner trip to Cincinnati and northern Kentucky, and this August's trip to the Canadian Rockies. They pointed out that each of these activities gets them out of their houses and moving, which improves their health and well-being. "We are all retired so volunteering together builds friendships, connects us with people of all ages, and gives meaning to our lives," Sue noted. "And, we laugh a lot when we're together."



Sue and James Hammersmith, left, were pictured with Sharon and Leo Knox at Bow Falls in Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada. It was the latest of many adventures the couples have shared.

Glorious Gleaner summer!

Gleaner members enjoyed unforgettable activities this summer. Family Day events featured Cedar Point's two parks on June 20, the Toledo Mud Hens on July 18, and the Fort Wayne Zoo on Aug. 8. This year's Getaway trip in August explored the Canadian Rockies around Banff, Alberta.

Register for updates and be among the first to hear about 2027 activities. Email *events@gleanerlife.org* to receive early announcements!



From left, Dianna Pepper, Ryan Kintz, Landon Pepper, Brayden Pepper and Nick Pepper reported smooth riding at Cedar Point. "Our family had an amazing day, and we were well taken care of thanks to Gleaner."



Linda Howard enjoyed "face time" with nature at Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park during Gleaner Life's Canadian Rockies Getaway.



The Swope family spent a day at Toledo's Fifth Third Field for the Mud Hens' game July 18.



Judy and Glenn Hunt visited the Athabasca Glacier in Jasper National Park as part of the Canadian Rockies trip. They mark 59 years of marriage and Gleaner membership this November.



Adalynn and Jameson Counts visited the Fort Wayne Zoo.



View more photos in the extended version online at *www.gleanerlife.org/forum.*



Fairmont Banff Springs resort stands above Bow Falls in the Canadian Rockies.



Elaine and Craig Swope at Toledo's Fifth Third Field for the Family Day game.



Emerald Lake made a beautiful background for Getaway photos.



Getaway participants wait to visit a Canadian Rockies glacier.



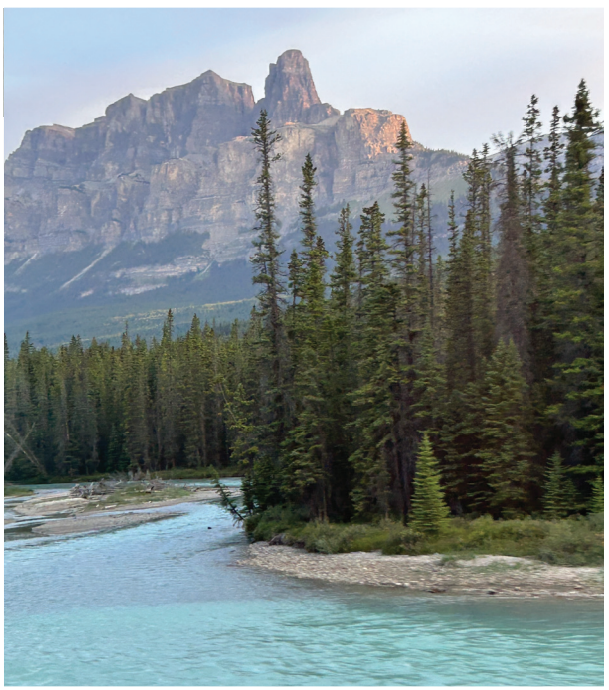
Climbing aboard an ice explorer to travel up to the Athabasca Glacier.



A view of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta, Canada.



The lobby of Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.



Tour bus view of Canada's Castle Mountain and Bow River.



Getaway participants arrive for lunch at Chateau Lake Louise.



Joe Sayle, Kristin Horton, Tavin Reid and Daniel Koweck enjoyed the Toledo Mud Hens game.



Gleaner Life's Home Office in Detroit was shown in the mid-1950s before a new facility was constructed in Birmingham, Michigan, and this building was sold. Note the sheaf of wheat emblem on the top center of the building's portico.

History told through piece of former Gleaner Home Office

Wheat symbol was saved 30 years ago from doomed Detroit building

Thirty years ago this fall, Detroit lost one of its architectural highlights, but Gleaner Life saved a small part as a reminder of the Society's past.

The Gleaner Temple, named for its likeness to Greece's Temple of Athena Nike, was built in 1908 in fast-growing Detroit. Gleaner founder Grant Slocum located the site, a cow pasture headed out of town at the northwest corner of Woodward and Palmer. (Within nine years it was part of the northward-expanding downtown, and its value had increased 847%.)

Michigan architect George L. Harvey of Port Huron designed the building of white Bedford stone, resembling his recent Maccabees Temple in Port Huron. It was Gleaner's fourth headquarters, but the first specifically designed as a Home Office. It opened Jan. 1, 1909, with built-in electrical wiring, 6,500 square feet of space and 10 large windows on its south side to let in sunlight. A three-floor expansion was added to the building's back in 1936 to meet new needs.

The facility marked Gleaner's progress from a rural farmers' group — symbolized by a sheaf of wheat and sickle on the front of the building — into a leading fraternal benefit and life insurance organization. The building witnessed much including:

- Gleaner's campaigns beginning in 1909 for modern, paved roads and for the U.S. parcel post system.
- Decisions in 1917 and 1945 to waive war exclusions and pay life insurance benefits to members killed in both world wars.
- Continued support for women's suffrage, including voter passage of Michigan's state constitutional amendment in 1918. Slocum chaired the statewide federation supporting the amendment.
- Junior Gleaner policies, which began in 1926.
- The Gleaner home for elderly members, which operated from 1930 to 1942.

By 1949, however, the building was outdated and its neighborhood difficult to access. A better location was sought so, in 1957, a new Home Office was built 16 miles farther north on Woodward Avenue in Birmingham. That same year, the old Gleaner Temple was sold to a foundation which transferred the deed to the Archdiocese of Detroit. It was used as the Newman Club by Catholic students (and called Newman Hall), the Art Centre Hospital's general office, and was bought in 1971 by the Michigan Health Care Corp. That went bankrupt and, in 1996, the building and another were purchased by Wayne State University.

Detroit preservationists hoped the old building would be turned into a natural history museum, but the university instead tore down both structures and paved over their sites. "We are about to lose one of Detroit's most significant cultural landmarks for a parking lot," Douglas MacIntosh, a board member with Preservation Wayne, told the *Detroit News* in September 1996.

As the building was being demolished, Gleaner President Frank Dick and Catherine Clarkson, executive director of Preservation Wayne, convinced the contractor to save the sandstone sheaf of wheat decoration from above the front portico. A truck was quickly dispatched to Detroit, and the artifact was brought to the current Home Office in Adrian, Michigan. A monument restorer from Defiance, Ohio, installed it in Adrian's Home Office courtyard. There, the sickle symbolizes the reaping of all things — even magnificent stone buildings — while the sheaf of wheat reminds us that our families stand stronger together.



Employees shown inside the building shortly after its completion included Mabel Clare Ladd (rear right).

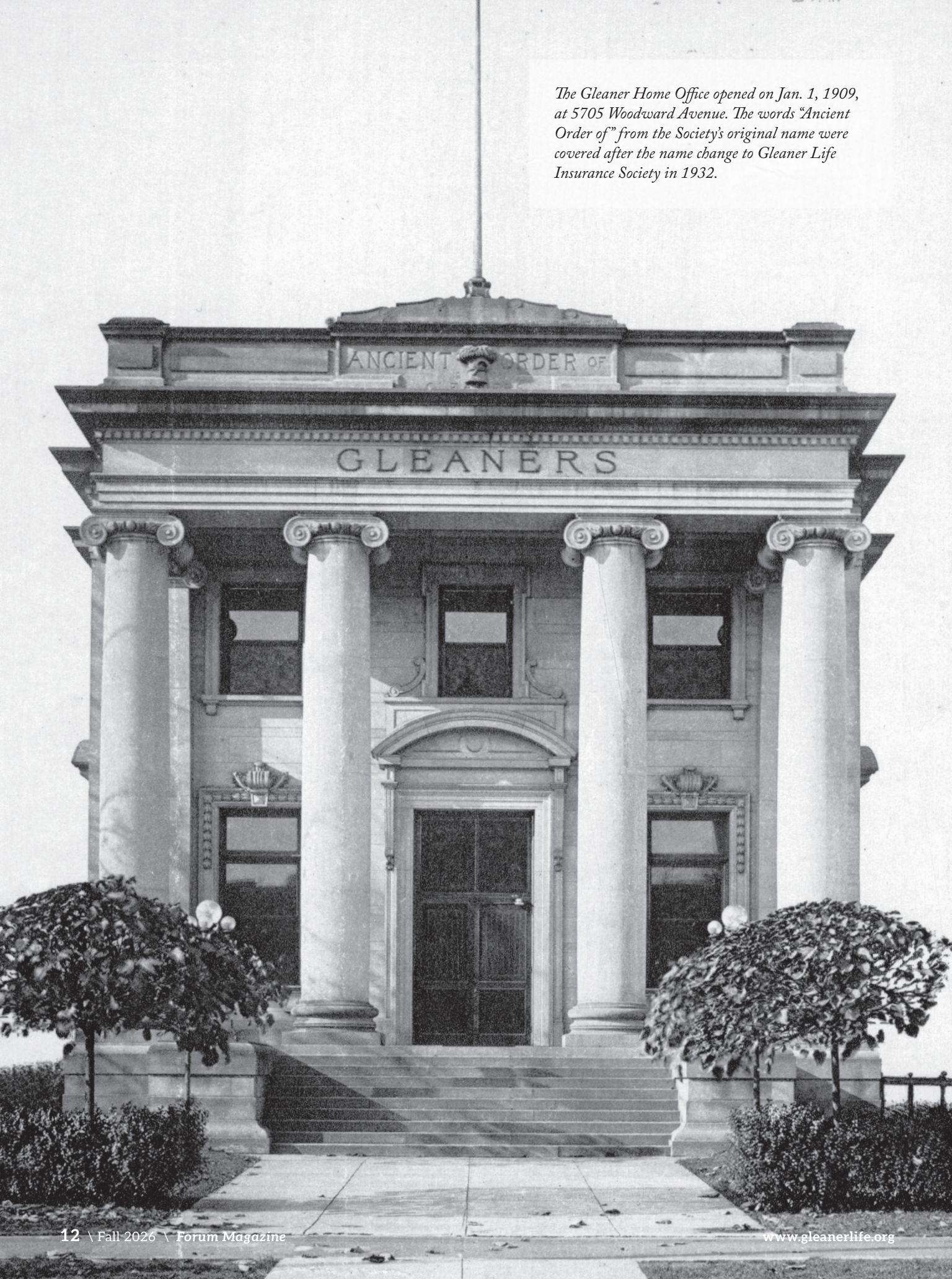


Gleaner members were often photographed on the building's steps. This jovial 1919 picture includes in the front Frank Goodyear plus Ross Holloway and Grant Slocum (both with arms crossed).

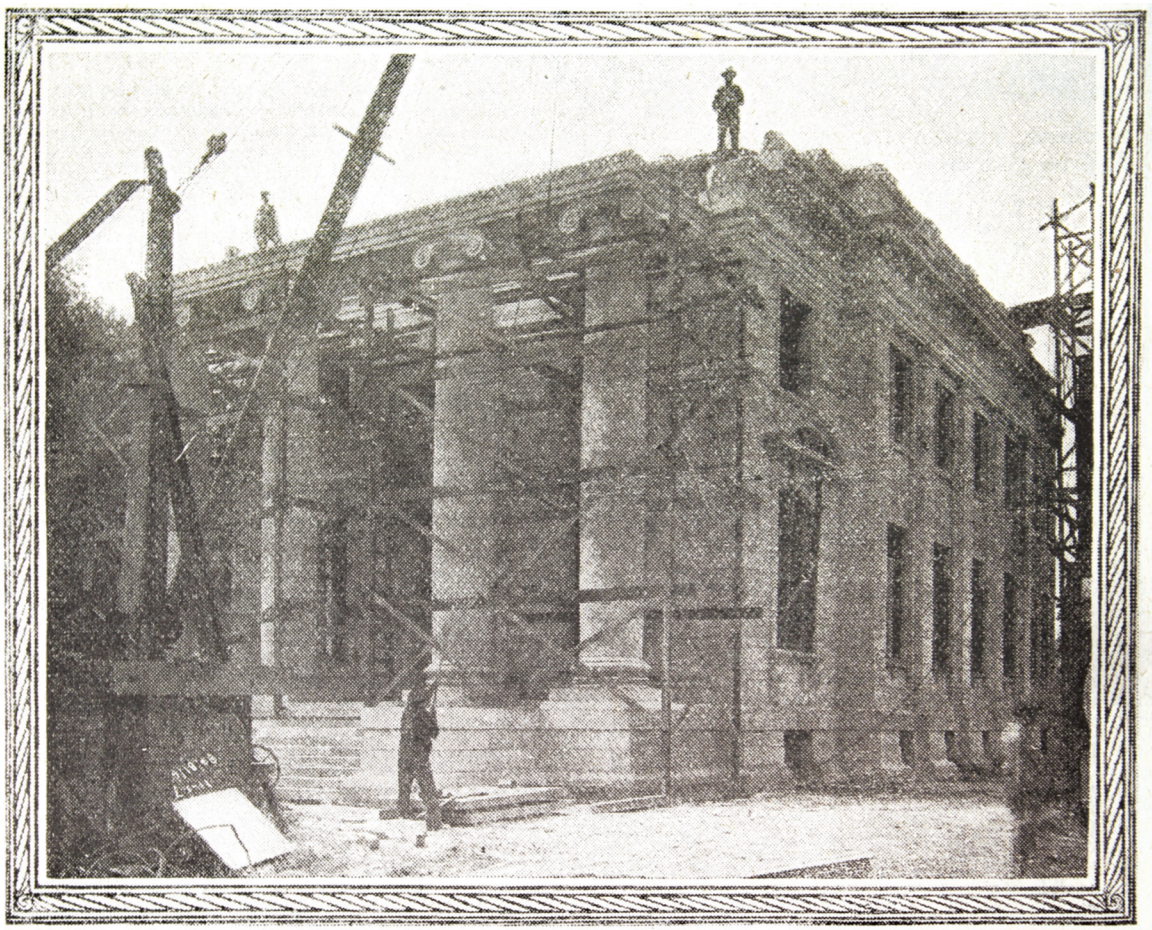


The Detroit building's wheat sheaf and sickle, two original Gleaner symbols, now displayed at the Adrian, Michigan, Home Office.

View more photos in the extended version online at *www.gleanerlife.org/forum*.

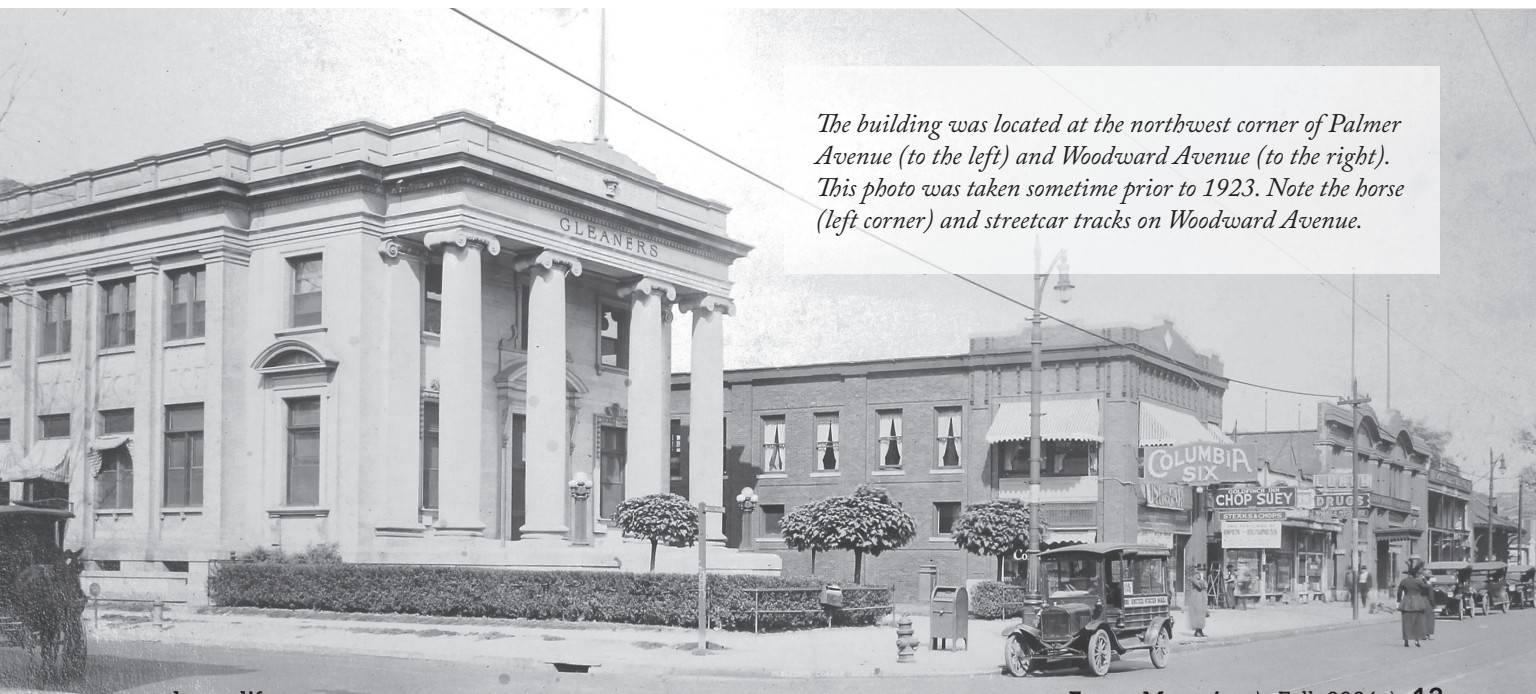


The Gleaner Home Office opened on Jan. 1, 1909, at 5705 Woodward Avenue. The words "Ancient Order of" from the Society's original name were covered after the name change to Gleaner Life Insurance Society in 1932.



THE NEW GLEANER TEMPLE, DETROIT, MICH., SHOWING PROGRESS OF WORK SEPTEMBER 22

Construction progress was shown Sept. 22, 1908. The site had been a cow pasture, but soon became part of Detroit's growing downtown.



The building was located at the northwest corner of Palmer Avenue (to the left) and Woodward Avenue (to the right). This photo was taken sometime prior to 1923. Note the horse (left corner) and streetcar tracks on Woodward Avenue.



The office of bookkeeper Ada Theobald, the Society's first employee. She retired in 1934.



Gleaner Life's Home Office staff was pictured in the early 1930s.



Gleaner's executive leaders in 1926 were (front, from left) George Strachan, Treasurer John Hudson, President Ross Holloway, Secretary Raymond Reitter, and Frank Goodyear; (middle row) Joseph J. England, Henry Zimmer and Elfa Munn; (top) Herbert Baker and Medical Director Dr. Malcolm Wickware.



Gleaner leaders from several states posed on the Home Office steps around 1917. Among those pictured were founders Grant Slocum, Joseph J. England and Dr. John Ealy; Council members Nate Simpson, Frank Goodyear, John Livingston, Henry Zimmer and Elfa Munn; Ohio state leaders Susan and Tom Elliot, Indiana State Manager Will Wright; and Lecture Bureau Secretary Lucia Bellamy.



For visitors entering the Detroit building, Assistant Secretary Ross Holloway's office was "the second door to the left." Holloway became the second President of the Society.



Congratulations,

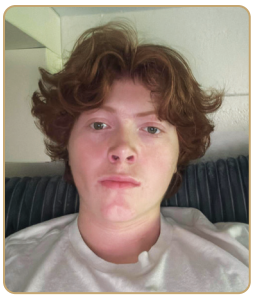
Gleaner Scholarship Recipients!

A scholarship is more than just money. It represents the vision of donors who provide funds, as well as the dreams of students who utilize these as a step on life's ladder. We are proud to showcase the Gleaner Life Insurance Society Scholarship Foundation's 2026 winners.

In May, Gleaner awarded 111 scholarships to Gleaner members, helping them pursue their educational dreams and achieve their career goals. It was the largest number of scholarships awarded in more than a decade. Each recipient received a one-time award of $2,500. Since 1980, the total amount given by the Gleaner Life Insurance Society Scholarship Foundation has reached nearly $5 million.

Not surprisingly, the opportunity to apply for scholarships is one of the Society's most popular benefits. This year's recipients are pursuing degrees in such fields as nursing, mechanical engineering, forensic chemistry, medicine, accounting, automotive, education, dental hygiene, aeronautical engineering, criminal justice, biology, physical therapy, architecture and wildlife and fish management, to name just a few.

Helping train up the future's caring hands is part of our promise. Our next generation is not alone; we all encourage students to grow and become part of something bigger, to develop, and to realize their potential. At Gleaner Life, we believe that investing in our next generation helps everyone within our Society.



Jack Andrews
Indiana University-Bloomington



Annabelle Arengo
Miami University-Oxford



Lauren Atkins
Delta College



Ella Atkinson
University of Kentucky



Connor Boots
Ohio State University-Main Campus



George Brill
The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga



Brenna Broman
University of Toledo



Kemariya Campbell
North Carolina A & T State University



Laura Chin
Duke University



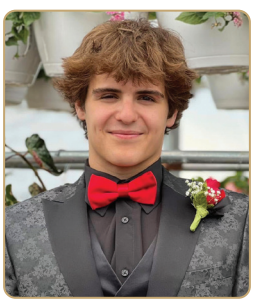
Lukas Christian
Ohio State University-Main Campus



Broden Cobb
Spring Arbor University



Kaitlyn Comar
Saginaw Valley State University



Chase Cora
Illinois State University



Cadence Deal
Tiffin University



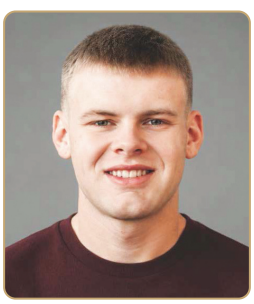
Logan Deisher
Miami University-Oxford



Miriam Demlow
The University of Texas at Austin



Anthony Doremus
Michigan State University



Landon Eickleberry
Indiana State University



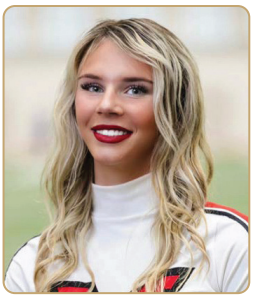
Grace Emery
Denison University



Maddox Fabbro
Michigan State University



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Baker College



Gabrielle Fisher
Miami University-Oxford



Lance Frankart
Heidelberg University



Vincent Fruth
Bowling Green State University



Andrew Ginter
Oakland University



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Ohio State University-Newark Campus



Andrew Grimes
Colorado School of Mines



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Taylor University



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University of Northwestern Ohio



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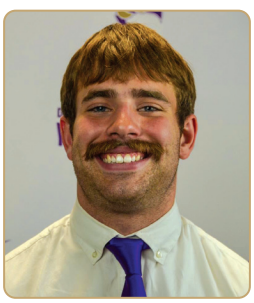
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Kollin Mickelsen
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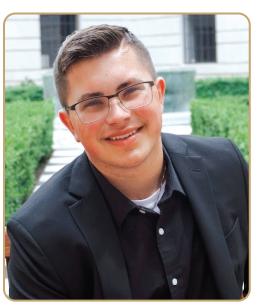
Samuel Moore
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Mylee Moser
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Caden Moyer
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor



Noah Mueller
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



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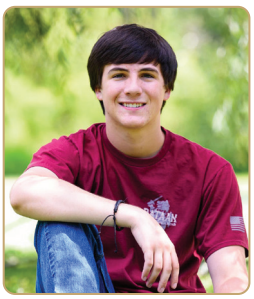
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Defiance College



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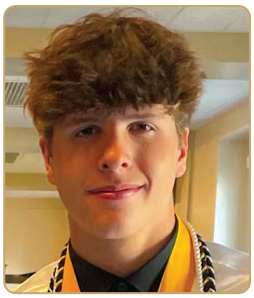
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Reagan Urbytes
Saginaw Valley State University



Aly Wegrzyn
James Madison University



Jake Wilkson
University of Dayton



Naomi Williams
University of Indianapolis



Kara Wyman
Bowling Green State University-Main Campus

Not Pictured

Brandon Bennett
University of Toledo

Dominic Hoving
University of St. Thomas

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Apply for 2027 scholarships starting Dec. 1

Do you know someone who could benefit from a Gleaner Life scholarship? The application period for 2027 scholarships will open on Dec. 1, 2026, exclusively online. An application must be completed by Feb. 1, 2027, to be considered by the Gleaner Life Insurance Society Scholarship Foundation's independent panel of judges.

To apply and view the list of scholarship requirements, visit *www.gleanerlife.org/scholarships* or contact us at scholarships@gleanerlife.org for more information.



Bavarian Arbor (MI) staffed a June 20 table and handed out 36 identification thumb drives with information to help keep children and senior citizens safe. Each of the computer thumb drives is pre-loaded with identification software from the National Center for Missing or Exploited Children. These help in quickly notifying the public if a child (or a senior citizen) goes missing.



Caro Arbor (MI) helped the local celebration of America's 250th birthday. Members donated $550 in June for a local fireworks display where the arbor distributed flyers. It then sponsored the Spirit of America celebration with a public sing-along, songs from local artists, a flag ceremony, public reading of the Declaration of Independence, and recognition of veterans. Vice President Sean Smith introduced the veterans. Free flags were given during the evening, the garden club donated pots of flowers, and the Caro Fire Department was involved. Treats were handed out after the ceremony.



Findlay Flag City Arbor (OH) members and their volunteers set up a craft party at the Historical Society. There were six tables with two crafts at each table. The crafts celebrated America 250. The crafts were made using supplies the arbor had purchased and organized. Members wore their Gleaner shirts and assisted the children and families with the crafts. Gleaner information was laid out on each table.



Glen Arbor (MI) hosted both a CPR class and a Flag Day event in June. The CPR training, conducted with 4-H, taught CPR on adults and children, how to use an AED, and how to prevent choking for adults and infants. The arbor paid for certifications and furnished cookies, brownies and water. The Flag Day ceremony was held with Scout Troops 7018, 314, 304, 102 and 602, and included a 21-gun salute and respectful retirement of old flags.



Harmony Arbor (MI) had a busy spring that included a Flag Day celebration. Songs were led by the Midstatesmen Chorus, a Barbershop Harmony Society group. Scout Troop members came forward and folded the American flag. As they made each fold, the meaning of that fold was read until the tri-color was complete. St. Louis Mayor Pro Tem Bill Leonard and Council member Fares Azzam, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Lebanon, spoke about America's freedoms.



Miami Valley Arbor (OH) hosted its third annual scholarship golf outing. It prepared lunch and used two shifts of volunteers, which helped the event run smoothly. Despite rain, the tournament netted $4,262. Arbor President Mack Cole presented prizes, explained what Gleaner does, and thanked teams and sponsors for participating.



Hawthorne Arbor (IN) planted flowers at Cedar Creek Health campus and Lowell Healthcare Center, overcoming obstacles that required three trips to complete the project. The arbor also marked Memorial Day by putting up large American flags at 14 cemeteries' entrances, and distributing 200 small flags at Lowell's ceremony.



Ithaca Arbor (MI) helped locally in many ways including buying about $800 of items to stock the community Blessing Box, donating $1,000 to the sheriff department's Youth Police Academy, supporting the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, and purchasing more than $1,000 in school supplies for the open house for Fulton Schools, a small, rural district.



Holland Arbor (OH) sponsored a fundraiser for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan Top Soccer, a free sports program for children and adults including those with physical, intellectual or emotional disabilities. Arbor members spent $606 on food to generate $2,250 in proceeds for Top Soccer's safe, inclusive and fun season. The arbor followed up with a June 12 visit for 84 people at the Toledo Zoo.





New Beginnings Arbor (OH) sponsored barbecued ribs on May 9 as a fundraiser for Brown Manor, a house that is being restored to help assist the homeless and others in need. The arbor worked with a barbecue business to serve up 119 racks of ribs and another 17 half racks.

North Baltimore Arbor (OH) teamed with the Klassy Kids 4-H group for pizza and crafts June 27 at the Baltz farm. Children and adults decorated compact discs with paint pens and gemstones and attached them to a beaded string to make suncatchers. The finished products are given to nursing home residents.









Oysters' Sand Arbor (VA) honored veterans in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The mayor of Herndon, Virginia, and a councilman attended along with business leaders, retirees (including the Stars & Stripes NOVA Committee), and the next generation of young students. The 57 attendees even included a remarkable 98-year-old World War II veteran.



Plank Road Arbor (MI) handled two projects on the same day at Breckenridge Elementary School. It partnered with Girl Scouts to weed and spread mulch on the school's butterfly garden, where the hard-working scouts also showed off friendship benches that they built through an arbor donation. Later, the arbor helped students in the Huskie Pups After School program prepare and plant vegetable gardens for summer.

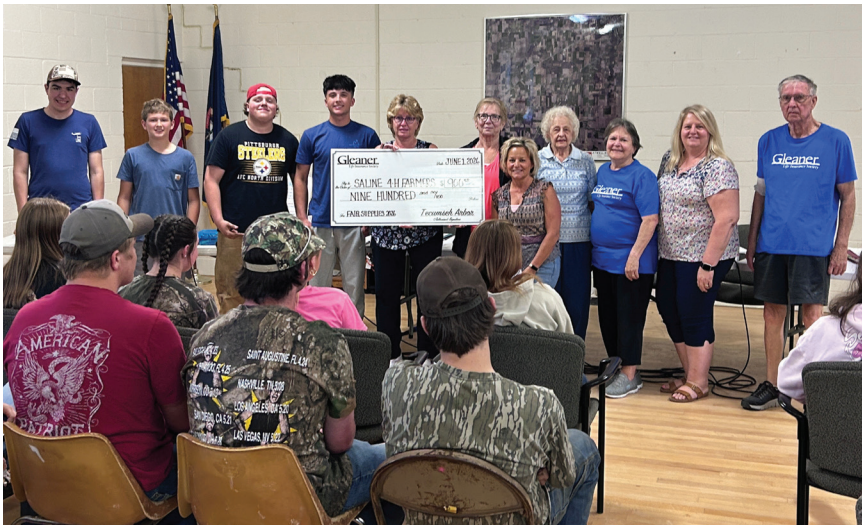


South Fairfield Arbor (OH) revived its Flag Day ceremonies and combined them with Metamora's Party in the Park, which helped attract more than 100 people. Arbor members followed the ceremony and a proclamation by Metamora Mayor Cathy Mossing by distributing hand-held flags to attendees, and donating new flags to two local fire departments, the library, and the Heritage House Museum. Collected flags were retired later in the day.





Portage Center Arbor (OH) partnered with AIM Recycling out of Toledo on June 13 to recycle electronics. Six large Gaylord boxes were filled with flat screen TVs and other unwanted electronics, preventing them from going to the landfill. The arbor handed out insulated bags with bottled water, pencils, and arbor information. It supplied three student volunteers from Elmwood schools, along with donuts and pizza for all workers. A week later (above), the arbor partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Wood County to dedicate a newly built home for a first-time homeowner and her family. The day after that, the arbor supplied ice cream and toppings for band students at Elmwood High School during their band camp.



Tecumseh Arbor (MI) supported the Saline 4-H Farmers group by presenting $900 for food and materials during their county fair. The arbor also purchased trophies for the reserve champion sheep and reserve champion goat. On July 14, the arbor assembled 104 snack bags for distribution to VA Services in Adrian and at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.



West Lockport Arbor (IL) provided lunch for the entire Shorewood Police Department. Sandwiches, chips, and dessert trays were featured. The day included discussion about what Gleaner Life offers, and a Gleaner Trivia game was held with prizes and raffles.



Sulphur Springs Arbor (IL) held its Bus Drivers Appreciation events at the MVK Bus Depot in Mazon and the Illinois Central School Bus in Coal City. The arbor gave the MVK drivers breakfast pizzas, two dozen donuts, and bottled water for 16 drivers. At Coal City, it gave 100 drivers and monitors sack lunches, cookies, and bottled water. A total of 116 people were served, and they received $5 Casey's gift cards.

Did you find the wheat stalk?

In this issue of *Forum Magazine*, the wheat stalk is hidden **on Page 5**.



Top-ranked agents and their spouses attended the 2026 Conference of Excellence at Secrets® Cap Cana at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

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Celebrating Gleaner's Top Agents



Cheryl White
Top Overall Conference Qualifier and Top Life Agent Award



Donn George
Runner-Up Overall Conference Qualifier Award



Chad Brogan
Runner-Up Life Agent Award
Top New Agent (tied)



Joseph Guenot
Top Annuity Agent Award



Michael Multer
Runner-Up Annuity Agent Award



Kevin Mannor
Top Agent for New Members Award



Daniel Zeiger
Runner-Up Agent for New Members Award



Charles Carrillo
Top New Agent (tied)



Danny Strock
Top New Agent (tied)



What Matters to You?

I have learned that three dogs can have very different ideas about what constitutes a helpful contribution to the household.

Betty believes bringing you a toy is an act of service. You may not have asked for the toy, and you may be doing something completely unrelated to throwing a toy, but she has delivered it nonetheless. Your responsibility from that point forward is obvious.

Mabel prefers a more hands-on approach. Whatever you are doing, she is available to help. Closely. Sometimes directly on top of it. Her enthusiasm generally exceeds her usefulness, and those long legs almost always get in the way.

Chuck's contribution is oversight. He keeps watch, assesses situations, and issues a well-timed huff when something requires our attention. He does not concern himself with the details. That's what the rest of us are for.

They are very different, but each, in their own way, wants to contribute.

Maybe there is a lesson in that for the rest of us.

Service means different things to different people. I love animals, so giving some of my time to the local Humane Society is a natural fit for me. It is something I care about, so it doesn't really feel like an obligation. It simply feels like a worthwhile way to spend some of my time. But animals may not be your thing.

Maybe your heart is with children. Maybe it's veterans, people facing hunger, seniors who could use some company, or a family going through a difficult time. Maybe you enjoy working outside and would happily spend a Saturday cleaning up a park. Maybe you would rather make something with your hands, organize a food drive, coach a team, deliver a meal, or help a neighbor who can no longer do something alone.

I don't think service has to look the same for everyone. In fact, I think it works better when it doesn't.

We each have different interests, talents, experiences, and things that tug at our hearts. When we find a way to use those things in service to someone else, helping becomes personal. And when it's personal, we're much more likely to keep doing it.

That's one of the things I appreciate about being part of Gleaner. I see people serving their communities in all kinds of ways. The individual projects may look completely different, but the idea behind them is the same. Someone saw a need that mattered to them and decided to do something about it.

You don't have to change the world. You only have to improve one small piece of it.

So, what matters to you?

Whatever your answer is, there is probably someone, somewhere, who could benefit from the time, talent, or compassion you have to offer. And as a Gleaner member, you don't necessarily have to figure out how to help on your own. Gleaner's Community Engagement programs can help turn something you care about into an opportunity to serve, whether through an Arbor, a Give and Grow project, or simply by connecting you to a community that exists to make a difference.

And if you're still trying to figure it out, I know three dogs who would be happy to help. Betty will bring the ball, Mabel will bring high energy, and Chuck will supervise.

Everyone has a role.

Andrea

Andrea Warner
Wife of President and CEO Todd Warner

Stuffed Acorn Squash

This easy Gleaner recipe is a nutritious way to create a fall flavor masterpiece with acorn squash. Use lean ground beef for an even healthier option. Customize it more with mushrooms, dried fruit, or pecans. It is as simple as it is tasty!







Ingredients

2 medium acorn squash (2 pounds)

¾ pound ground beef

1 small onion

1 cup (¼ pound) muenster cheese, shredded

¼ cup ketchup

½ teaspoon sugar

1 tablespoon water

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

Directions

Cut squash in half lengthwise and scoop out seeds and stringy pulp. Place in 12-inch skillet with ½-inch water. Over high heat, boil 10 minutes until squash is fork tender. Drain.

Brown onion and ground beef until onion is tender and meat is brown. Stir in remaining ingredients and cook over low heat until cheese is melted. Spoon meat mixture into squash and serve.

This fall's Stuffed Acorn Squash recipe originally was provided in 1980 by Nancy Johnson of Sulphur Springs Arbor (IL). It was published in the first edition of Gleaner's "Home Grown Recipes." If you know of a Gleaner member whose recipe you would like to see featured, please email us at *communications@gleanerlife.org*.

BENNY'S PAGE

Hi, kids!

Fall is full of colorful surprises just waiting to be discovered! I love to spend as much time outside as I can before the cold winter months set in. During this beautiful season, I encourage you to spend time outside and spread kindness ahead of the Thanksgiving season. After all, kindness is everywhere if you know where to look! See how many fall challenges you can complete.

Can you…?

- ☑ Praise someone for listening.
- ☐ Find three different colored leaves.
- ☐ Collect an acorn or pine cone.
- ☐ Name one thing you're thankful for.
- ☐ Rake a pile of leaves and jump in them.
- ☐ Do something kind for someone.
- ☐ Spot a sign that an animal has been nearby.
- ☐ Pick up a piece of litter and put it where it belongs.
- ☐ Find the biggest tree you can.
- ☐ Give someone a compliment.
- ☐ Find a leaf bigger than your hand.
- ☐ Make a thank-you card for someone who helps you or your family.



I hope you enjoy your fall adventures! Keep discovering, helping and spreading kindness every day!

BENNY
The Benevolent Lion

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