



**Donna Bunce**

Executive Director

Compassionate Heart Ministries

Couples Therapy for the  
Politician in Each of Us

Five Tips to Take Your  
Business Writing to the  
Next Level

A Look at the Future of  
Education in Ottawa  
County

## Compassionate Heart Ministries: Our Story of Courage, Perseverance, and Determination

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The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce serves as a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for our thriving community. The Chamber serves its 1,200 members by building businesses, advocating for issues that matter, developing leaders, and supporting initiatives to build an inclusive community where all feel welcome.

The West Coast Chamber has been recognized with the U.S. Chamber's prestigious Five Star Accreditation. Less than 1% of Chambers in the country receive this distinction.

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**A**t the West Coast Chamber, we strive to be leaders within our industry. We want other Chambers across the state and the country to look to us as an example and be inspired by our trailblazing work.

We realize we are not alone in this endeavor. Many of our members share the same sentiment and have become inspirational within our community and their respective industries. Earlier this year, when we released the call for nominations for our 2023 Inspire Award, we received dozens of outstanding nominations.

In this month's edition of the West Coast Way Magazine, we introduce you to our 2023 Inspire Award Winner, Compassionate Heart Ministries. You will get to know Executive Director, Donna Bunce, and learn about a significant moment in her life that inspired her to create the organization. You will also learn about the organization's tremendous growth and how they're inspiring other organizations all across the country. Get ready to be inspired!

**Jodi Owczarski**  
President & CEO  
Michigan West Coast Chamber  
of Commerce



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# Couples Therapy for the Politician in Each of Us

By Vince Boileau | Managing Partner, Boileau & Co.

*Braver Angels Michigan team members pose for a photo. From left to right: David Joseph, Hilary Young, Teresa Getman, Sarah Brabbs.*

If you're anything like me, you have probably taken many years or decades to form the opinions and beliefs you hold on complex subjects like education, taxes, abortion, gender, race or the words we use around these subjects.

We shape these beliefs through hundreds of thousands of interactions with neighbors, peers, family and strangers; through literature and scripture; through our evolving media diets; and through our children who curiously ask challenging questions and uncover new insights.

They are not simple beliefs. They are complex with nuance. They're unique. They're precious. They are us.

But something is changing. Increasingly, when someone disagrees with us or acts in a way contrary to our galvanized beliefs, there's a greater impulse and temptation to get mad. We get defensive. Our amygdalas take over. We parrot sound bites. "They're dumb, evil,

racist, ignorant," we say. And we go on for hours winning fabricated arguments in our heads, where we easily triumph with scorching one-liners and comebacks.

It usually does not occur to us to ask what richness of experience or voices have shaped another's opinions.

## What changed?

Passionately sharing your belief and disagreement is not a new phenomenon. It's not evil. It's natural and human. It's fighting for your tribe, your family, your home. Ensuring your way of life. Your posterity.

What is new is that our news outlets and social media overlords have learned how to leverage our outrage with little effort. Tristan Harris, founder of the Center for Humane Technology, likens it to a super computer aimed at your brain. As a result, we're angry a lot more. Maybe every day. Without the accountability of a face-to-face

relationship, we give in to our anger, letting it burn behind the anonymity and safety of our flat, curated, and perfected digital profiles.

And despite a vast diversity of opinions, we seek the safety of the biggest tribe available, boiling down infinitely unique personalities into a boring binary of Conservatives and Liberals. We're letting our party pick our values for us. Not diverse. Not representative. Not human.

## So what do we do?

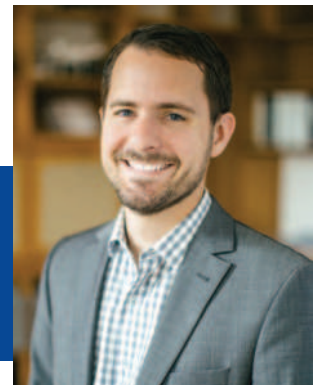
First, a reality check. I might be able to talk you into closing your social accounts, and that will calm your outrage (and solve a host of other mental health risk factors) immediately. But, I don't think I can talk folks out of a two-party government...yet. So, in those confines, what does it look like for those of us who lean conservative or liberal to actually connect in a meaningful way?

A few years ago, I heard about Braver Angels, a grassroots nonprofit that was using marriage counseling principles to create dialog between Clinton and Trump supporters after the 2016 election. Fascinated, I got involved, and in 2022 went to one of their flagship programs — the Red-Blue Workshop. In it, we went through a series of powerful exercises together with those on 'the other side' and as Red-only and Blue-only sessions.

One exercise asks each side, individually, to name the stereotypes applied most often to them and then unpack how it's unfair but also what grain of truth makes it stick. For example, for conservatives, they might say "Racist" or



Vince Boileau is a strategic thinker, communicator, and leader. He is passionate about helping others to tell complex stories with nuance and authenticity. Vince is dedicated to growing a company that creates meaningful change for his clients, team, and the community. He earned his bachelor's in communications from Grand Valley State University in 2008, served for three years as editor and assistant director at a media production company, and joined Boileau Communications in 2012. In his free time, Vince enjoys playing and recording music, socializing over nerdy board games, reading classic literature, and doubling as a jungle gym for his three kids.



"Pro-gun" or "Anti-science" but then go on to uncover why that stereotype is so unshakable. Likewise, liberals complete the same exercise for themselves unpacking terms like "woke," "communist," and "entitled." When each side is done, they bring their findings together.

It's a powerful thing to see members of the opposite side work through the complicated mess of the stereotypes applied to them — both why those stereotypes are unfair and why in some cases they carry a grain of truth. It's vulnerable, a little uncomfortable, and deeply moving.

When the workshop is done, there emerges a new understanding of opposing beliefs, not as generalizations, but as the result of a collection of stories, faith, experiences, systems, and family. We also emerge realizing we have much more in common than we do in difference.

I'm still involved in Braver Angels today and communicate regularly with many members of the workshop. If you're interested in the work of bringing healing to your family, workplace or community, I highly recommend you try out a workshop or volunteer to host one. They're available both in-person in Michigan and virtually online.

[BraverAngelsMI.org](https://BraverAngelsMI.org)





# Five Tips to Take Your Business Writing to the Next Level

By Robyn Schopp | Founder and Chief Happiness Officer, Gordeaux Consulting

A few months ago, I attended a “majors fair” at my alma mater where I spoke with students who were looking for majors and minors to declare. When I asked students if they’d considered a writing major, most would give a little smile and say, “No, I’m not good at writing.” All the more reason to study it, my dear!

There’s no escaping it; everyone has to write, especially in the business world. Strong writing skills can boost your credibility and even your career. Here are five quick tips to take your business writing to the next level.

## 1. Keep it short.

Most people don’t read business communication because they want to. Focus your message on what truly matters, and help your readers get on with their day.

## 2. Plan it out.

If you’ve got a big message that’s critical or will be sent to a large audience, give it some thought. To plan your message, step through the rhetorical situation (in other words, the components involved in the communication) and ask yourself questions like these:

**Writer:** Who am I to the audience? Do I need to establish credibility or explain who I am?

**Purpose:** Why am I writing this? What am I trying to accomplish here?

**Audience:** Who will be reading this message? What do they know or not know already?

**Topic:** What am I writing about? What’s the main message, and what is just supporting detail?

**Context:** In what circumstances will the audience read the message, and what aspects of the situation might affect the way they receive it?

### 3. Organize your ideas.

The most important part of the message should go first. This is typically your main topic — the “what” or “why.”

Then, go into the details that support your message. If there are details you aren’t sure whether to include, consider putting them in an attachment or providing a link where people can learn more.

Chunk the message into sections that cover sub-topics. Chunking can help prevent your message from going back and forth between sub-topics.

### 4. Picture it.

Use a graphic or photo to liven things up. An image can serve as a visual “hook” for readers and can help illustrate your point. Icons are okay but do your best to stay away from stock images and clip art for your everyday messages.

Enjoy this colorful graphic of the rhetorical situation.



### 5. Polish it up.

This seems like a no-brainer tip that everyone knows, and no one has time for, but it is always worth the time. Here are a few ways to tighten up your message.

- Eliminate wordiness by avoiding unnecessary adjectives and passive verbs (is, be, am, was, etc.).
- Define jargon and important terms. Lots of advice says to avoid jargon entirely, but I think quickly defining an acronym or key term can help get everyone on the same level.
- Use formatting to your advantage — but be strategic. Use headings to make your message more scannable and use bold-face or highlighting to call attention to something important. Just make sure each formatting decision has purpose.
- Read through it once, really slowly before hitting “send.” Or send it to a friend to preview. A second read-through, whether by you or someone else, can catch mistakes that spellcheck can’t.

Looking for more help in this area? Contact Gordeaux today for group training on business writing and more!

Robyn Schopp is founder and Chief Happiness Officer of Gordeaux Consulting. Robyn brings over ten years of experience in leadership, employee development, and corporate communications to her work with Gordeaux Consulting. As a certified DiSC facilitator, she connects people to their unique personal styles. As an employee engagement and workplace culture consultant, she connects organizations to the power of fun as a motivator and productivity booster.





# A Look at the Future of Education in Ottawa County

By Nicole Gitler | Program Developer, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District

It's no surprise that things change quickly in today's fast paced environment. Education is no different. Local educators have been tasked with shifting curriculum and creating new programs to accommodate student needs and better prepare them for the working world post-graduation. We sat down with Nicole Gitler of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District to learn what's being done in Ottawa County to better prepare students for success.

## What is futurePREP'd?

futurePREP'd is an Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) program that helps connect students and educators with industry. The program allows schools to bring more relevance into their classrooms.

## What are the objectives of futurePREP'd?

The goal of the program is to empower educators to enhance the classroom experience with increased relevance. We aim to expand students' opportunities for

career exposure and to practice design thinking skills, while honing their Skills4Success which include collaboration, communication, accountability, critical thinking, technology literacy, flexibility, and ethical citizenship. Over the past 12 years, futurePREP'd has collaboratively engaged with over 400 educators, partnered with 100 businesses, and impacted thousands of students.

## Tell us about your futurePREP'd business partnerships and programs.

We are fortunate to collaborate with over 100 business partners who generously contribute their time to our local schools. An exemplary new program created this past school year, PREP'd Connect, enabled us to connect over 20 West Coast Chamber members with local students. Chamber members served as mentors and many graciously opened their business doors to host the students. We intend to expand this program's reach to benefit even more students.



In addition, futurePREP'd offers various opportunities for K-12 students during the school year and in the summer. Our school-year offering, the Academy Program, caters to 9th-12th graders, providing them with opportunities to explore the professional world while earning three free transferable college credits. This immersive experience takes place inside a local partner's place of business where students apply design thinking to tackle real-world challenges.

For K-8th grade students, a modified version of this program is conducted within their schools. Students collaborate with industry professionals to build career awareness and enhance their Skills4Success. Through the Academy Program, we were fortunate to engage with more than 20 business partners who actively supported both educators and students.

During the summer, students may participate in other futurePREP'd programs: IChallengeUjr, IChallengeUth, and IChallengeU. An intriguing component of this program is that educators serve as facilitators for the teams and receive six days of Design Thinking training. Not only do they lead an intensive summer program for students at business locations, but they also plan a Project-Based Learning Experience in their local schools for their own classrooms. This comprehensive initiative involves over 75 educators and 30+ business partners.

In our commitment to supporting educators, we provide customized Professional Development opportunities aimed at helping them integrate business partnerships into their classroom and provide meaningful Project-Based Learning Experiences. Educators may also join Alumni Connect groups, fostering ongoing professional growth. Along with this, we offer a year-long book study that encourages educators and industry professionals to engage in discussions on topics that enhance the overall education of our students. Our ultimate goal is to foster a collaborative culture where educators and businesses work hand-in-hand to prepare our students for their future beyond high school graduation.

### How does the futurePREP'd program benefit educators, students, and businesses?

The futurePREP'd team aims to create win-win scenarios for educators, students, and our valued business partners.

Nicole Gitler is a Program Developer for the futurePREP'd Program in the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. Working in education for the past 15 years, Nicole helps teachers bring industry relevance, Design Thinking, Project Based Learning, and the Skills4Success into their classrooms. Nicole is also a part of the leadership team for Career and Technical Education across Ottawa Area ISD. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Albion College in Economics and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University. Nicole enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors, playing in Lake Michigan, and traveling around the world.



Many of our business collaborators have not only embraced students' ideas, but also put them into action within their organizations. A prime example of this occurred during the summer when our IChallengeU team, in collaboration with Kids Food Basket, conceived and planted a sensory garden at the new Holland location. The immediate beneficiaries of this innovative creation are Kids Food Basket and the community, reaping the rewards of the students' creativity and hard work.

### What does the future have in store for the OAISD?

The futurePREP'd team and the OAISD remain steadfast in the commitment to provide valuable opportunities for educators and students across the region in Design Thinking, Project-Based Learning, and Career Exposure. By providing educators with the necessary training and tools to infuse these experiences into their classrooms, we are confident that students will find learning more engaging, have the chance to explore their passions, and cultivate their Skills4Success. Long term, we aspire to continue expanding our programs so every student in the Ottawa Area has multiple opportunities to collaborate with industry professionals. As students gain these valuable experiences, we are certain they will be better prepared for the next steps in their educational and professional journeys!



# Compassionate Heart Ministries: Our Story of Courage, Perseverance, and Determination

By Donna Bunce | Executive Director, Compassionate Heart Ministries

Photo Credit: Elisabeth Marie Photography

**A**t this year's Annual Awards Celebration, Compassionate Heart Ministries was recognized as the West Coast Chamber's Inspire Award Winner. Compassionate Heart Ministries has a truly inspirational story that has not only impacted our West Michigan community but has impacted those all across our state. The organization is going above and beyond to serve overlooked populations in our community and is truly deserving of this award.

## Tell us about Compassionate Heart Ministries.

If someone told me when I was in college that I would be the Founder and Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, specifically for individuals with disabilities, I wouldn't have believed them. In 1984, I didn't know what a nonprofit organization was, and I had no experience working with people with disabilities. However, God has a way of using you in ways you never imagined!

In 1992, my husband and I were blessed with a baby boy who changed our world forever. Through him, we faced some of our greatest challenges and heartaches. We came to understand what it means to live in community, what it means when people say, "it takes a village," and what it's like to have to lean on others for help. Our son, Jacob, has autism and is cognitively impaired with severe speech and language impairment. Jacob is my "why." He is why Compassionate Heart Ministries was founded. He needed friends, social opportunities, and a place to belong.

Since 2007, Compassionate Heart Ministries has been providing a safe, Christ centered, social recreation program for people ages 14-45 with mild to moderate cognitive and physical disabilities, down syndrome, and autism. For sixteen years, families have traveled from all over West Michigan to Zeeland looking for the one thing that all parents want for their children with special needs: friends, belonging, and acceptance.



So much of our story involves City on a Hill. In 2006, City on a Hill blessed Compassionate Heart with free space. A true gift of generosity and time; time for us to get our feet on the ground and grow a donor base. We secured about 900 square feet, enough for a pool table, one TV for a video game, a sitting area for games, and a closet for an office! It wasn't much, but it was cozy and comfortable, and we were thankful. However, within a short amount of time, our space filled up and we needed more room. In 2008, we worked with the leaders of City on A Hill and renovated the labor and delivery area of the old hospital and moved into 4,500 square feet. Again, feeling very thankful, we were positive that this would "hold" us for a long time. It did — until 2012.

With no more available space at City on a Hill, the Board of Compassionate Heart decided it was time for our own facility. In December of 2013, we launched a capital campaign to raise \$2.5 million dollars for a 20,500 square foot facility. The journey of a capital campaign while raising operating funds was not for the faint of heart, but we did it, and in 2016 we moved into our new home. Truly, the outpouring of support was and is such a blessing!

When I think back to that humble beginning, and now, to the hundreds of families we serve, I see an impact on our community that I could never have imagined! Our mission is simple: to serve teens and young adults with disabilities, but through our work, we have also increased the community's awareness of the needs of people with disabilities.



## What makes Compassionate Heart Ministries different from other organizations?

Our Peer volunteers! We couldn't do what we do without our fantastic volunteers. They come alongside our friends and shoot pool, play basketball, pickleball, video games, or Uno, help serve dinner, or drive our vehicles when we go on field trips or work service projects. Whether it's a high school or college student, a church youth group, a corporate team, or a retired person, we need people who have just a little time who want to make a difference in the life of someone who really needs friendship.

## How did Compassionate Heart Ministries come to fruition?

In 2005, after watching Jacob struggle for years with the lack of friendships and social opportunities, I started praying for a place where he and others with disabilities could find friends, acceptance, and a place to have fun.

Donna Bunce was born and raised in Holland, Michigan, and graduated from Northwestern College in 1984 with a BA in Sociology & Criminal Justice. After many collective experiences including mentoring on an Indian Reservation in Nebraska, short term missions in India, serving as a Youth Ministry Consultant for twenty churches, counseling as a Bereavement Coordinator for Hospice in Holland, and working as a medical social worker in Indiana, it all came together when she became a parent of a son with disabilities. All of the experiences and passions merged in 2005 to become the Founder and Executive Director of Compassionate Heart Ministries.



These are the things that all of us want to have in our lives. For the first time, parents could bring their child to a safe place, just to experience fun, friends and a social environment. At the same time, parents could get some much-needed relief. All these factors helped Compassionate Heart grow into the organization it is today. I am continually inspired and awed by my friends. Their life stories, their unconditional love, and their joy in the simple things of life continues to bless us all.

## What does the future have in store for Compassionate Heart Ministries?

As we look to the future, our goal is to replicate the organization! We often get calls and visits from people asking for a "Compassionate Heart in their city." We know that the need is great. In 1992, autism was 1 in 1,000; now, it is 1 in 36. It's our sincere desire to come around these families and give them hope and help. We continue to grow our programs as life skills have become so crucial for possible independent living and job skills.

## What does the 2023 Inspire Award mean to the team at Compassionate Heart Ministries?

We are truly honored and humbled to receive the 2023 Inspire Award! Our staff is committed to the families we serve by leading with a servant's heart, by doing everything with excellence, and by showing God's love to the people we meet. We are so grateful to this community for supporting and believing in us for all these years. At the end of the day, it's our special friends who deserve the Inspire Award. They inspire us every day!

# American Family Care Expands Accessible and Affordable Healthcare in Holland

**A**FC Holland Will Offer a Variety of Urgent Care Services to Patients, Seven Days a Week

American Family Care (AFC), the nation's leading provider of accessible primary care, urgent care, and occupational medicine, continues its massive expansion with the opening of its latest AFC urgent care center in Holland, Michigan. The new clinic aims to meet the growing community's demands, including summer visitors' needs, back-to-school physicals, and occupational medicine services within Holland's thriving manufacturing industry.

AFC Holland, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility, is located at 91 Douglas Avenue, Suite 110, across from D&W Fresh Market.

"I'm thrilled to expand access to quality healthcare with this family-run business," says Brian Pelke, independent owner and operator of AFC Holland. "We're committed to treating our patients like family. With a focus on exceptional patient experiences and compassionate care, we aim to make AFC Holland a trusted healthcare destination in the area."

Pelke brings 33 years of manufacturing experience, including significant safety management expertise, and 15 years as the president of a manufacturing company. From those experiences, Pelke understands the challenges of being an employer and getting your employees back to work.

"With decades of experience in the manufacturing industry, I will guide my team to serve employers in the Holland community better than anyone else. Our exceptional team is dedicated to providing quality healthcare to the community and assisting local companies with pre-employment physicals, workers' compensation case management, and vaccinations."

AFC Holland will offer a comprehensive suite of medical services that will save families time and money, like sports physicals and flu testing.

## AFC Holland Services

- On-Site Lab Testing and Vaccinations — AFC's on-site laboratory provides a wide variety of lab work with results available within minutes, including flu, COVID-19, and STD testing. Staff can also perform immunizations like the flu vaccine.
- State-of-the-Art Diagnostics — Digital X-ray equipment allows AFC staff to take and read X-rays within minutes.



- Occupational Health Exams and Workers' Compensation Cases — These services include DOT physicals, return-to-work exams, and drug testing.
- Extended Hours: The clinic is open seven days a week. No appointment is necessary.

Veteran board-certified emergency room physician Robert Hubers, MD, is AFC Holland's Medical Director. To address a void in healthcare within the community, Dr. Hubers and Pelke have prioritized building an experienced and diverse medical team that includes hiring providers with more than 20 years of experience and having Spanish speakers on staff. With Latinos making up nearly a quarter of Holland's population, AFC Holland is dedicated to ensuring patients feel comfortable and understood during their medical care.

"We've heard from individuals in the community that they've had to travel long distances to seek medical care from those that speak their native language," says Dr. Hubers. "At AFC Holland, we're delighted to have a team that can communicate effectively in Spanish and provide compassionate care to all our patients."

AFC Holland opened to patients on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. Medical services will be offered seven days a week — Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.afcurgentcare.com/holland/](http://www.afcurgentcare.com/holland/).





# Get to Know Your Attorney General, Dana Nessel

By Dana Nessel | Attorney General, State of Michigan

## Why did you choose to practice law?

Growing up, I was intrigued by the lawyers I saw in books and movies. I remember reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* in grade school, seeing Atticus Finch and thinking, “I could do that.” So, at first, I thought I’d like to be a defense attorney. But then I happened to get an internship at the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office during law school and fell in love with public service — feeling like I was really making a difference in people’s lives when they were at their most vulnerable. The rest is history.

## What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever received?

Make sure you are kind, grateful, and professional with everyone you meet. You never know when in your career they may turn up again one day. I got a job with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office straight out of law school. It was an incredible environment to hone my skills, but eventually I found myself a single mother raising two children and realized that’s difficult to do on a public servant’s salary. But when I left that position, I sat down and had a meaningful chat with Kym Worthy, who remains one of my closest colleagues to this day. When my department secured the funding for our new Job Court pilot program, I knew she would be an invaluable resource in spearheading the initiative for Wayne County. It’s important to cultivate strong relationships, wherever you go and whatever you do.

## What advice would you give to the next generation hoping to practice law?

Don’t allow your losses to set you back. The path you follow will have forks and turns, but it will still lead you where you need to go. Some of the most devastating losses in my career were cited as precedent in my greatest triumphs. I can’t imagine what might have happened if I’d allowed the disappointments to stop me in my tracks. The important thing is that you stay motivated and trust that there are more successes waiting in your future.

## What has been your greatest achievement since becoming Attorney General?

It is the honor of my life to serve as the People’s Lawyer for the great state of Michigan. Our office has launched so many exciting initiatives during my tenure, not the least of which are those helping to support local business owners and safeguard Michigan’s economy: Job Court, business identity theft investigations, and our Organized Retail Crime Task Force. It is my goal that with everything we do, the Department of Attorney General works to promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of Michigan residents and communities.



Dana Nessel was sworn in as Michigan’s 54th Attorney General in January 2019. Now in her second term, Attorney General Nessel has spearheaded a revival of the department’s consumer protection division to ensure the state’s residents can have faith in the quality of their purchases. Under Nessel’s leadership, the department also launched several new initiatives like Job Court, investigation into business identity theft, and an Organized Retail Crime Task Force — all helping to support local business owners and safeguard Michigan’s economy.

# BREAKFAST WITH OUR CONGRESSMAN

FEATURING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUIZENGA



DECEMBER 11, 2023  
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM  
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# Upcoming Programs



To **register**, visit our website or scan the QR code on this page.

## November 1, 2023

### West Coast Connect LIVE

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
Evergreen Commons

We hope you'll join us for West Coast Connect LIVE in partnership with the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance! This open-house style event showcases local nonprofits that need your guidance and experience as a board or committee member. Both young and seasoned professionals are encouraged to attend.

Lead Sponsor: **Fifth Third Bank**

Venue Sponsor: **Evergreen Commons**

## November 7, 2023

### Leading Edge Workshop: How to Market Your Business

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
Michigan West Coast Chamber

When referrals are your number one source of new clients, advertising can seem like a wasted expense. But with the right strategy, marketing can become the best way to grow your business. In this session, Robert Hughes, CEO of Hughes Integrated, will teach you how to upgrade your brand, get noticed by ideal prospects, and become the expert people love recommending to others.

## November 7, 2023

### Women Inspiring Women

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM  
Macatawa Golf Club

Join us for an elevated afternoon as we connect with women at all stages of their careers. You'll enjoy light appetizers, cocktails, and mocktails, followed by a presentation from our guest speaker, Laurel Romanella, Certified EOS Implementer. Laurel will share tips and tricks to live your ideal life.

## November 9, 2023

### Power Breakfast

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Macatawa Golf Club

Grab your business cards and get ready to expand your professional network at Power Breakfast! You'll enjoy coffee, a delicious breakfast, and several rounds of structured table networking, all while taking in the scenic views at Macatawa Golf Club. Don't wait — register today!

## November 14, 2023

### Wake Up West Coast

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM  
Haworth Hotel

You don't want to miss this special edition of Wake Up West Coast featuring guest speaker, Jon LoDuca, Founder of Playbook Builder. Jon will share insights on company wisdom and cultivating a healthy culture.

Program Sponsor: **Independent Bank**

Morning Mingle Sponsor: **DISHER**

## December 11, 2023

### Breakfast with Our Congressman

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM  
Haworth Hotel

Don't miss your chance to hear updates from Washington, D.C., ask questions of United States Congressman Bill Huizenga, and participate in discussions about issues that affect you and your business. Register for Breakfast with Our Congressman today!

Program Sponsor: **Corewell Health**



# HAPPENINGS



West Coast Chamber President & CEO, Jodi Owczarski, posed for a photo with guest speaker Zach Mercurio of ZM Consulting before our first Wake Up West Coast of the program year.





Obed Marroquin of Consumers Credit Union shared the keys to financial literacy at our Hispano Network Financial Literacy: Mastering Your Finances Workshop.



Nature's Market celebrated the fourth expansion to their store located at 1013 Washington Ave on the Southside of Holland with a ribbon cutting.



Beauty ReNew Aesthetics & Wellness celebrated the grand opening of their new space located at 11539 E Lakewood Blvd, Suite 110, on the Northside of Holland with a ribbon cutting.



West Coast Chamber President & CEO, Jodi Owczarski, posed for a photo with Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel, at our September Advocacy in Action event.



Power Lunch attendees enjoyed networking and great conversation at Macatawa Golf Club.



For His Glory Ministry celebrated the grand opening of their new space located at 710 Chicago Drive, Suite 260, on the Southside of Holland with a ribbon cutting.



Avalon School of the Arts celebrated the grand opening of their new space located at 144 Coolidge Ave on the Southside of Holland with a ribbon cutting.



The West Coast Chamber Ambassador Team posed for a photo after the Ambassador Orientation Meeting.

# Premier Partner Spotlight

## LG Energy Solution Michigan Will Create Over 1,000 New Jobs for Holland

Earlier this year, LG Energy Solution Michigan hosted a celebratory topping out ceremony to commemorate a major milestone — completing the steel structure of their multi-million dollar expansion. Since then, the 1.7 million square foot facility has made fast progress and is expected to finish construction in 2024, with mass production beginning in 2025. The new Holland facility will expand production capacity by five times.

LG Energy Solution Michigan produces lithium-ion batteries for some of the most recognizable vehicle brands in the world. The expansion incorporates several new innovations found in smart factories. *Smart* elements automate tasks on the production floor.

The expansion will create over one thousand well-paying technical jobs. LG Energy Solution Michigan is known for their excellent benefits and competitive pay, including their 100% employer paid medical, dental, and vision insurance. Employees experience a great place to work and opportunities for career growth through built-in advancement pathways. Job openings are posted on their website, [lgenergymi.com](http://lgenergymi.com).



LG Energy Solution Michigan employees are proud to be active members and leaders in the communities they live, work and go to school in. The company makes it a priority to sponsor events and organizations that represent their employees and align with their values.

As leaders in the electric vehicle industry, LG Energy Solution Michigan is a trusted partner for major automotive manufacturers such as Ford, Volvo, GM and Stellantis. Their presence in the community has brought exceptional industry and valuable jobs to West Michigan that are sure to impact the community long-term.

LG Energy Solution Michigan is shaping the future of the automotive industry by leading the EV charge and paving the path toward a more sustainable future. By powering EV today, they are preserving tomorrow.



# EXPRESS Interior CLEANING



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# Renewing Members

## It's All About YOU

The West Coast Chamber's **Why** boils down to this: It's All About You. Being a partner for you, a resource for you, and an ally for you. When you renew your Chamber membership, it tells us that we are being responsive to your needs and providing value, and that you trust us to be here for your business whenever you need us. Your renewal is the ultimate source of feedback on the positive impact the West Coast Chamber has on fostering strong businesses that support a thriving community. Thank you!

## We appreciate our members who recently renewed their memberships:

\* Indicates years of membership

3D Properties  
 AAC Credit Union  
 Above the Top Roofing  
 AcenTek (formerly Ace Communications) - **10\***  
 Agritek Industries, Inc. - **30\***  
 Alta Material Handling  
 Apex Controls Inc.  
 Artisan Medical Displays  
 Avancer Executive Search  
 Baughman Capital Management  
 Bosch Insurance Group  
 Busschers Septic Tank & Excavating Services, Inc  
 Challenge Island  
 Clark & Clark Specialty Products, Inc.  
 Community Choice Credit Union  
 CopperRock Construction  
 Costa Oil 10 Minute Oil Change Holland  
 Creative Dining Services, Inc.  
 Culver's of Holland - **20\***  
 Dan Vos Construction Co., Inc.  
 Drew's Country Camping  
 Dune Dogz

EagleEye Performance Vision  
 Emma Jo & Co.  
 Envizion IT  
 Evolve by Design, Inc.  
 Excell Construction Services  
 Farm Bureau Insurance Spears  
 Forty Two North Custom Homes  
 Gilda's Club Grand Rapids/Gilda's LaughFest  
 Goodwill Store - North Holland  
 Goodwill Store - South Holland  
 Goodwill Store - Zeeland  
 Great Lakes Commercial Finance  
 Green Fork Food  
 Harbor Steel & Supply  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 Holland Community Health Center  
 Holland Pallet Repair - **20\***  
 Holy Smokers BBQ  
 JR Automation  
 KNITit LLC  
 Kozaks of Holland  
 Ladder Homes, Inc.  
 Lakeshore Credit Management and Repair Services, LLC



Law Office of Gregory VanderWoude, PLC  
 LG Energy Solution Michigan  
 Lifeline Ministries No 2  
 Maplebay Builders L.L.C.  
 Meyering Insurance Agency, Inc.  
 Momentum Center  
 Nadine's Fish Tips n Wings  
 NewCNC.com - **10\***  
 Novo Building Products - **20\***  
 Office Outlet / The Company Store - **20\***  
 Olivia Grace & Company  
 On The Border  
 Quality Car Wash  
 Quincy Place Senior Living  
 Resthaven - **40\***  
 Ringnalda TenHaken Insurance Group  
 Sebright Machining, Inc.  
 Skiles Tavern  
 Sonscreens  
 Steven Walters Builders  
 StrEATs Taco Kitchen

The Poppy Peach  
 The Salvation Army  
 The Six Eight Cafe & Boutique at Better Way Designs  
 Thomas A. Davis Jeweler  
 Tommy Car Wash Systems  
 Tommy's Express  
 Tripelroot  
 VerHage Motors - **10\***  
 Vision Designs of West Michigan  
 Walden Edge LLC  
 Wassink Plumbing  
 West Michigan Airport Authority (WMAA)  
 West Ottawa Eyecare  
 Whittaker Associates, Inc.  
 Woodward Inc.  
 Worksighted  
 Zoet Financial

## New Members

Welcoming these new members who recently joined the West Coast Chamber

**Brain & Body Chiropractic**  
**Lily Semrow**  
 (616) 202-6368  
[www.brain-bodyhealth.com](http://www.brain-bodyhealth.com)  
[clinic@brain-bodyhealth.com](mailto:clinic@brain-bodyhealth.com)

**Hand2Hand**  
**Emily Bult**  
 (616) 209-2779  
[www.h2hkids.org](http://www.h2hkids.org)  
[info@h2hkids.org](mailto:info@h2hkids.org)

**Nourished Hearts**  
**Kim de Blecourt**  
 (616) 510-7613  
[www.nourishedhearts.org](http://www.nourishedhearts.org)  
[info@nourishedhearts.org](mailto:info@nourishedhearts.org)

**Out of the Barn, LLC**  
**Katie Edwards**  
 (616) 443-2717  
[outofthebarn433@gmail.com](mailto:outofthebarn433@gmail.com)

**Tanglewood Winery**  
**Anjalie Wassink**  
 (616) 403-3114  
[www.tanglewoodwinery.com](http://www.tanglewoodwinery.com)  
[sales@tanglewoodwinery.com](mailto:sales@tanglewoodwinery.com)

**Uncommon Coffee Roasters**  
**Katherine Bryers**  
 (269) 455-5111  
[www.uncommoncoffeeroasters.com](http://www.uncommoncoffeeroasters.com)  
[orders@uncommoncoffeeroasters.com](mailto:orders@uncommoncoffeeroasters.com)



272 E. 8th Street  
Holland, MI 49423



**CATALYST**  **CONVENER**  **CHAMPION**