

# Northern Michigan business owner receives national industry recognition

Ken “Butch” Hogarth, owner of Hogarth’s Pest Control & Wildlife Removal, has been named Professional of the Year by the National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA), a national organization representing wildlife control professionals across the United States.

The Professional of the Year award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, technical expertise, integrity, and service to the public within the wildlife control industry.

Hogarth is a longtime northern Michigan business owner with more than 30 years of experience serving residential and commercial customers throughout the region. Hogarth’s Pest Control & Wildlife Removal provides humane wildlife removal, structural exclusion, and long-term prevention solutions designed to protect homes and businesses while respecting wildlife.

The company serves customers across Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Antrim, Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties and has earned more than 900 Google reviews, reflecting its reputation for professionalism and customer trust.

“This recognition reflects decades of commitment to doing the work the right way and supporting the communities we serve,” said Hogarth. “Northern Michigan has always been home, and it’s an honor to be recognized while serving the region.”

The NWCOA Professional of the Year award is presented annually to professionals who advance industry standards and demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical business practices nationwide.



Courtesy photo

# 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area awards \$33,000 gift

The Antrim Scholars program has received a significant boost in its mission to expand access to higher education in Antrim County, thanks to the collective generosity of 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area.

At its December 2025 giving meeting, the 280-member organization awarded its \$28,000 collective gift to Antrim Women’s Alliance, the administrator of the Antrim Scholars program. That donation was supplemented by a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation bringing the total investment to \$33,000.

Poverty continues to be a primary barrier for students in Antrim County who desire to continue their education after graduation. The Antrim Scholars program was created to address that challenge by building a comprehensive, community-based network of support for first-generation and economically disadvantaged students as they prepare for, enter, and persist through college or university.



Deb Broderick, Carol Heles (100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area), Laura Schmidt, Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik, Pat Budzynski (Antrim Women’s Alliance) Courtesy photo

“Parents often come to us looking for guidance,” said Central Lake High School counselor Mary Spyhalski. “They want to know how to support their kids in realizing their dreams and, just as importantly, how to shift their mindset to believe that higher education is truly within reach.”

Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik, Antrim Women’s Alliance Treasurer and Antrim Scholars chair, expressed deep gratitude for the support. “We are so grateful for this incredible gift from 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area. From our first interaction two years ago with their member Nancy Baker – who inspired us to aim higher and create a full-blown college access program in Antrim County – to today, with several other members joining the Antrim Scholars program in various capacities, we are so thankful for the unwavering support.”

Central Lake High School pilot program coordinator, Pam Singer, highlighted the impact the funding will have on program growth. “This gift from 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area will help us expand our program beyond its current pilot phase at Central Lake High School by increasing the number of students served and expanding our reach to neighboring schools.”

With this investment, Antrim Scholars is poised to deepen its impact, ensuring more local students have the guidance, resources, and confidence they need to pursue higher education – and a brighter future.

For more information about Antrim Women’s Alliance and the Antrim Scholars program, visit: <https://antrimwomensalliance.org/>

For more information about 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area, visit: <https://100womenelkrapids.org/>

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