



# MISS MICHIGAN

Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, Inc.

958E Bowline Road  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Office: 231.798.4272  
Fax: 231.799.9046

[www.MissMichigan.org](http://www.MissMichigan.org)

As a business leader in Michigan, you know the traits a person needs to succeed. You know that hard work, a positive outlook, a willingness to learn, and the ability to lead and encourage others work together to build toward that success. It is also amazing to have an opportunity to recognize and encourage others who are on that same path toward success.

As the Executive Director of Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, Inc., I will have that opportunity every year. It is an amazing opportunity that has been a Muskegon tradition for 60 years. The Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant is looking for leaders in our community to also support and encourage these young women who have had amazing roles in their communities. There are many reasons to support this scholarship program, but I would like to draw your attention to 10 key reasons.

1. During pageant week for 60 years, hundreds of visitors come to Muskegon including the contestants, their families, friends, supporters, and local program volunteers from throughout the state. It is a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful and progressive community.
2. The scholarship program brings revenue not only to Muskegon, but statewide. All of the pageant visitors stay in area hotels, eat and shop locally.
3. The Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant is a franchise of the Miss America Organization – the country's largest provider of scholarships to young women. Last year alone, over \$45 million dollars in scholarships were granted on the local, state, and national level. In fact, our very own Miss Michigan 2007 Kirsten Haglund became Miss America 2008! Kirsten has also created her own national foundation to provide information, support and freedom from eating disorders. This past year Nicole Blaszczyk, our Miss Michigan 2009, was awarded a non-finalist talent winner — earning \$7,000 in scholarships while competing for the title of Miss America.
4. It sounds like a cliché, but this is a scholarship program, not a beauty contest. Our emphasis is promoting self-confidence in young women by developing their skills in academics, public speaking, and the performing arts.
5. Our program is already successful and still growing. We added the Michigan Outstanding Teen Program, which is a competition for girls age 13 to 17. This program is also associated with the Miss America Organization, and the state winners advance to the national level. We are proud to have had a previous winner from Michigan be first runner-up in the national pageant – winning \$20,500 in scholarships!



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6. Your investment in our program shows support for the performing arts. While several of our contestants have gone on to careers as professional musicians, singers, dancers, and actors; many also have become teachers or remain active in the arts through their churches and local theaters.
7. The Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant is an all-volunteer organization. This means your contribution goes directly for scholarship awards rather than the “administrative costs” so many charities incur.
8. This program allows your donation as a specific scholarship. When my father passed away, a group of my friends collected funds for a talent scholarship in his name. It was a lovely memorial that meant the world to me and to the recipient of the scholarship.
9. This year’s Miss Michigan 2010, Katie LaRoche, was awarded a total of \$11,250 in scholarships.
10. Finally, Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, Inc. is part of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. This affiliation allows you to make a tax-deductible contribution to our program.

There are so many other benefits to this program. I have been involved with the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant in many different areas for over 31 years, and I can tell you from my heart that it has made a difference in the lives of countless young women. Through this prestigious event in our own community, your contribution will help the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant continue to grow and offer tremendous opportunities to many young women throughout Michigan.

Sincerely,

Shelley Taylor  
Executive Director  
Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, Inc.