

INDEPENDENT | BANK

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



At Independent Bank, making a positive impact on the communities we serve is more than a commitment, it's part of who we are. For this year's Community Impact Report, we're featuring a mural created with Rebel Nell during ArtPrize, inspired by what community means to the people we serve.

For more than 160 years, we've worked alongside the people, businesses, and organizations that help make Michigan stronger, and this report highlights how our employees, partnerships, and financial resources come together to expand opportunity, strengthen neighborhoods, and help people achieve financial independence.

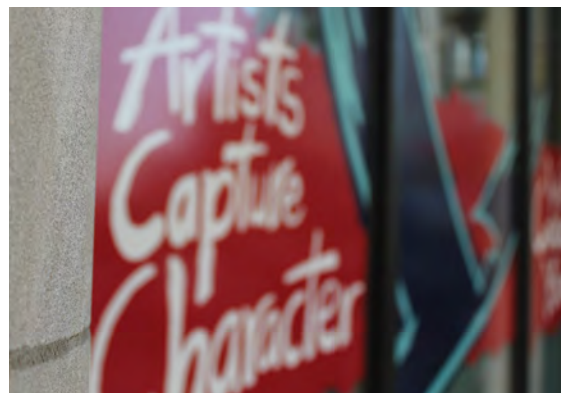
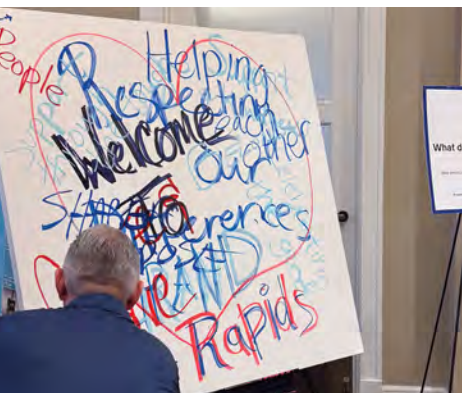
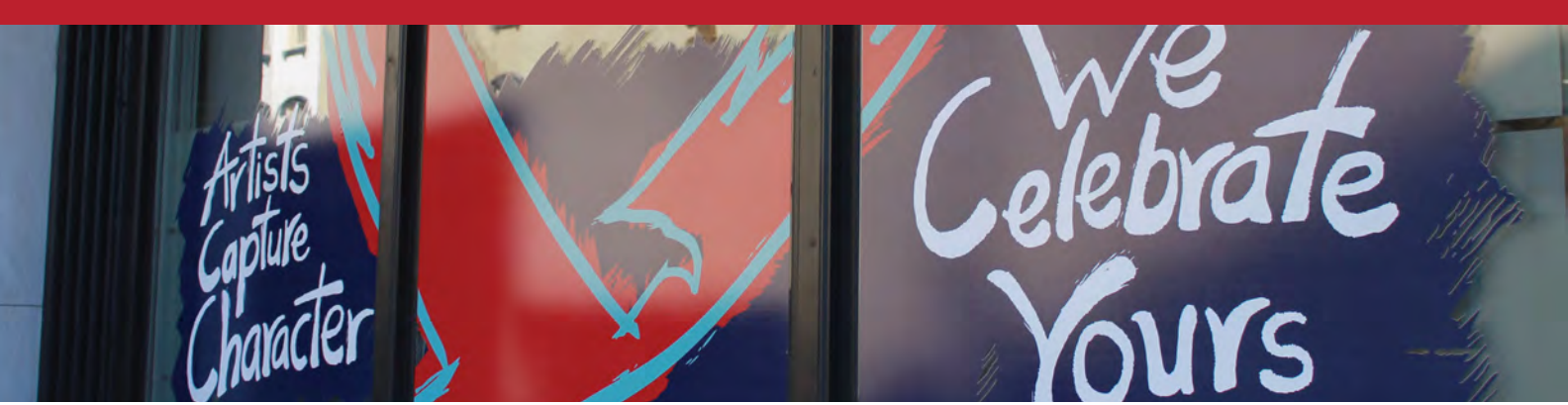


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OUR IMPACT ACROSS MICHIGAN

Independent Bank's impact reaches far beyond our over 60 locations. Through financial investment, volunteer service, and community partnerships, we help people and communities grow stronger every year.

From expanding access to homeownership to supporting nonprofits and strengthening financial education, our work reflects a shared commitment: helping individuals, families, and businesses move forward with confidence.

Together with our employees, customers, and community partners, we continue building stronger communities across Michigan.



 **15,448**
employee volunteer hours

 **300+**
financial literacy presentations

 **4,200+**
adults and children reached through financial education

 **\$533M**
in mortgage loans helping individuals achieve homeownership

 **605**
low and moderate-income households supported through My Home Reward closing-cost assistance

 **800+**
employees volunteering in communities



LETTER FROM THE CEO



At Independent Bank, our purpose has always extended beyond banking. We believe our role as a community bank is to help people move forward. Whether that means supporting a small business owner pursue their dream, helping a family purchase their first home, or partnering with local organizations to help strengthen the places we call home.

In 2025, that commitment remained stronger than ever.

Across Michigan, our employees dedicated thousands of hours of volunteer service, supporting nonprofits and community initiatives that make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Through our philanthropic efforts, we invested more than \$1 million in organizations focused on financial literacy, housing stability, food security, and community development.

We also continued expanding access to financial opportunity. Our lending programs helped hundreds of families achieve homeownership, while our financial education programs reached thousands of students and community members. These efforts reflect our belief that when people have access to the right tools, knowledge, and support, they can achieve financial independence and build stronger futures.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our employees and the strength of our community partnerships. Our team members consistently demonstrate what it means to be a people-focused bank. They are dedicated to serving with integrity, compassion, and continue to demonstrate their commitment to the communities where we live and work.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear. We will continue investing in programs that expand opportunity, support local businesses, and strengthen communities across Michigan.

VOL
UN
TEER

It only takes *one person* to make a difference

Thank you to our employees, customers, and community partners for helping us make a meaningful difference every day.

Together, we are building stronger communities... and a brighter future.

Sincerely,
William B. (Brad) Kessel | President & CEO



MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Independent Bank exists to help individuals, families, and businesses achieve financial independence while strengthening the communities we proudly serve.

87%

Employees say Independent Bank is a great place to work

91%

proud to work at Independent Bank

95%

felt welcomed when joining the company

3,466

training hours delivered to employees



Vision

A future where people approach their finances with confidence, clarity, and the determination to succeed.



Mission

Inspiring financial independence today, with tomorrow in mind.



Values

Courage: *Stepping out of your comfort zone.*

Drive: *Striving to exceed expectations.*

Integrity: *Ensuring words and actions align.*

People-Focus: *Creating value for those we serve.*

Teamwork: *Working together to achieve goals.*



VOLUNTEERISM



Serving Our Communities Together

At Independent Bank, service begins with our people. Across Michigan, our employees volunteer their time and talents to support nonprofits, schools, and community organizations that make our neighborhoods stronger.

Whether mentoring students, supporting food banks, assisting housing organizations, or serving on nonprofit boards, our employees demonstrate every day what it means to be a community bank.



15,448 VOLUNTEER HOURS

In 2025, Independent Bank employees contributed more than 15,448 hours of volunteer service, supporting organizations that improve lives and strengthen communities.

Be The Difference Day

One of the most meaningful ways our team gives back is through Be the Difference Day, a bank-wide day of service.

 **800+**
employees volunteered

 **80**
community projects completed

 **\$98,000**
donated to nonprofits

For 10 years and counting, this initiative has brought our employees together to support causes that matter most in the communities we serve.

\$1M+ *Donated to nonprofits*
over 10 years through Be the Difference Day

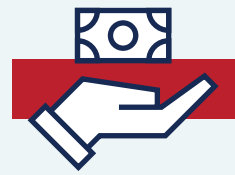


COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Investing in Stronger Communities

Independent Bank proudly supports nonprofit organizations that strengthen communities and expand opportunity.

Through charitable giving, sponsorships, and grants, we partner with organizations that address critical community needs—from financial education and housing to food security and youth development.



\$1.23M

Invested in Communities

In 2025, Independent Bank contributed **\$1.23 million** to nonprofit organizations across our communities. Many of these organizations provide essential services to families and individuals throughout Michigan.

Areas of Support

- Financial literacy programs
- Housing and community development
- Food security initiatives
- Youth education programs
- Community health services

These investments reflect our belief that when communities thrive, everyone benefits.

\$1M+

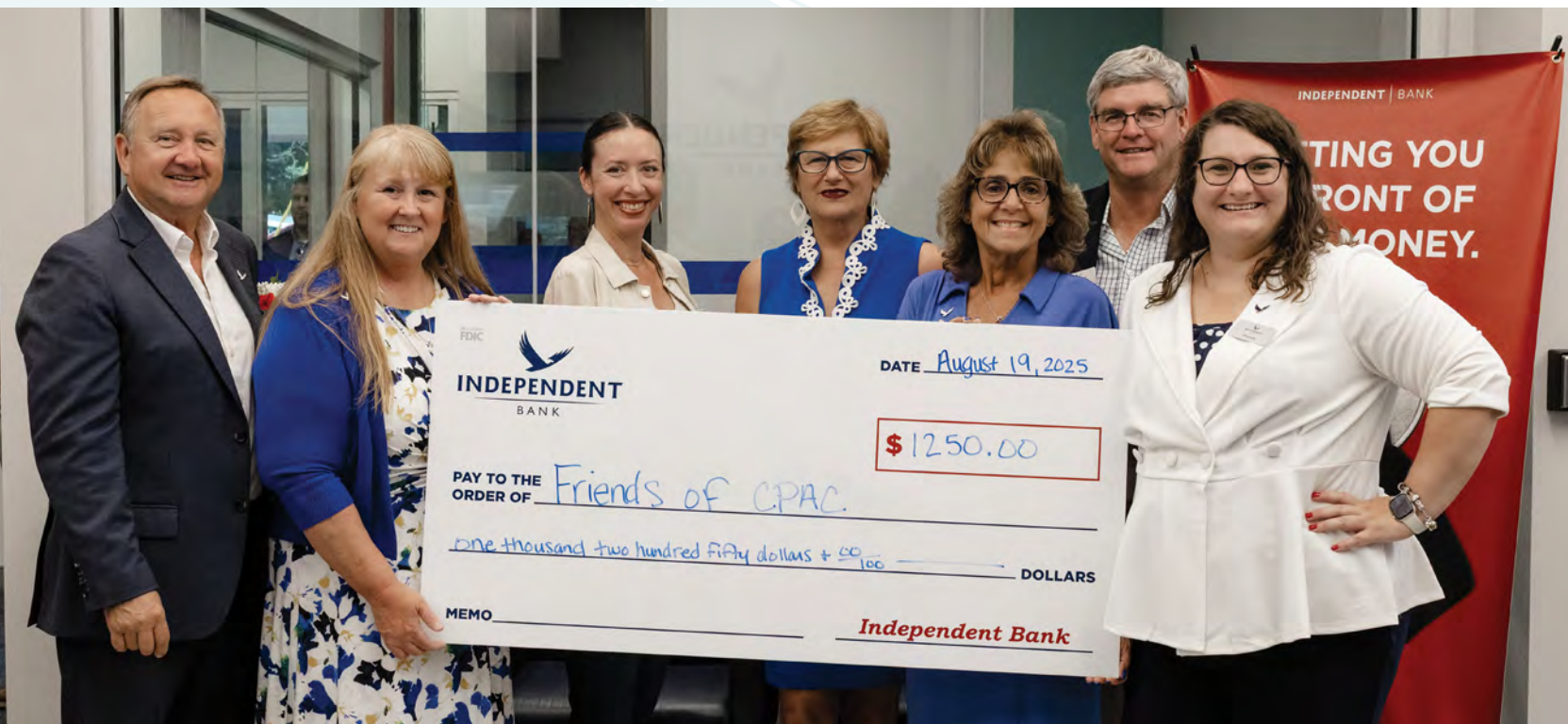
donated over 10 years through Be the Difference Day efforts

HUNDREDS

of nonprofits supported statewide over multiple years

\$490,000

CRA-qualified donations



FINANCIAL ACCESS

Expanding Opportunity Through Financial Access

Access to financial tools and capital plays a vital role in building strong communities. Independent Bank works every day to ensure individuals, families, and businesses have the resources they need to move forward with confidence.

We teamed up with GreenPath Financial Wellness to help community members become mortgage-ready. The program helps participants form a plan to improve their financial wellness and discover a path to homeownership through a mortgage-ready credit counseling course.

From small business lending to community development initiatives, we help expand opportunity across Michigan.



These investments help local entrepreneurs grow businesses, create jobs, and strengthen local economies.

Economic Inclusion Efforts

Independent Bank continues to work with organizations and partners that expand access to financial services and economic opportunity.

Through programs aligned with the Community Reinvestment Act, we support initiatives that promote financial inclusion and long-term economic mobility.



76

mortgage closings through our partnership with First Independence Bank



155

borrowers enrolled in mortgage readiness program with GreenPath



57

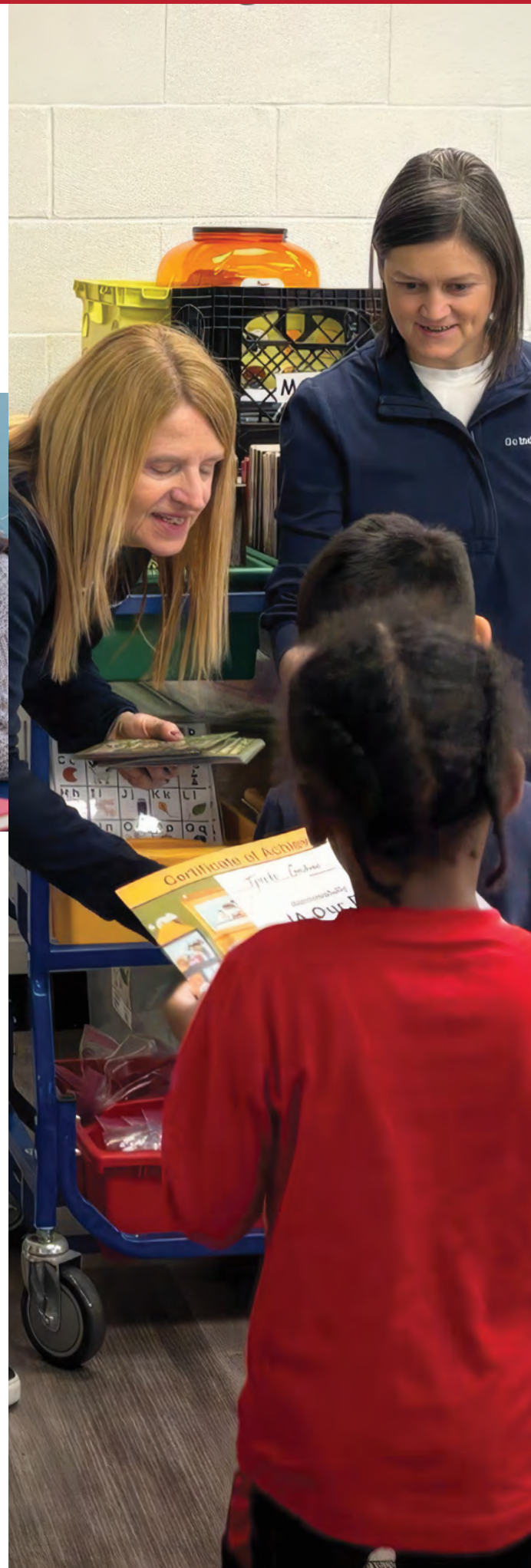
graduates from the mortgage readiness program with GreenPath



EDUCATION & FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Helping Communities Understand and Master Money

Financial independence begins with financial knowledge. Independent Bank is deeply committed to helping individuals of all ages understand money, build strong financial habits, and plan for the future.



Through our partnership with Junior Achievement:

50+
employees volunteered

NEARLY 700
students participated in BizTown and Finance Park experiences

These programs provided students with real-world exposure to financial decision-making, entrepreneurship, and career exploration.

4,200+
adults and children reached

27 YEARS
of the Independent School Bank program in Tri County Area Schools

300+ FINANCIAL LITERACY PRESENTATIONS

In 2025, Independent Bank delivered more than **300 financial literacy presentations**, reaching more than **4,200 students and community members**.



HOUSING

Supporting the Path to Homeownership

Homeownership remains one of the most powerful ways families build financial stability and long-term wealth. Independent Bank is proud to support programs that make homeownership more accessible.



\$533M

In Mortgage Loans

In 2025, Independent Bank provided **\$533 million in mortgage loans**, helping individuals and families achieve their homeownership goals.



501

affordable housing units supported through grant partnerships



\$44.9M

invested in affordable housing tax credit projects since 2018



584

affordable housing units created through development partnerships



\$100M+

in construction and permanent financing to further support these affordable housing developments

Areas of Support

Independent Bank invests in programs designed to expand access to affordable housing. Through initiatives such as the My Home Reward Program, we help reduce financial barriers to homeownership.

619 HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED

through My Home Reward closing cost assistance

\$1.5 MILLION+ IN CLOSING COSTS COVERED

for low- and moderate-income borrowers

In addition, Independent Bank continues investing in affordable housing development projects across Michigan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building Relationships That Strengthen Communities

Independent Bank employees are deeply engaged in the communities we serve. Our team members participate in local events, serve on nonprofit boards, and contribute to civic organizations that strengthen communities across Michigan.



200+

Community Organizations Served



BREAKING NEW GROUND



Brad Kessel, President and CEO and Jason Blain, Senior Commercial Banker at Independent Bank join fellow community members and representatives from Gracious Grounds for the groundbreaking on Ability Way, a new affordable housing community for adults with intellectual disabilities in Grand Haven, MI.



Independent Bank partnered with Cinnaire Solutions and Woodbridge Neighborhood Development Corporation on the construction of a 60-unit project located on Rosa Parks Boulevard in Detroit.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Supporting Healthy Communities

Healthy communities require strong support systems. Independent Bank partners with organizations focused on improving community health and well-being.



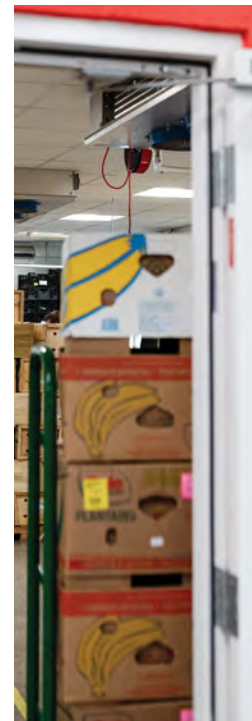
Dedicated to
Healthy
Communities



Through charitable giving, volunteer service, and community partnerships, we support programs addressing:

- Food insecurity
- Mental health resources
- Community wellness initiatives
- Support services for families

By working alongside nonprofit organizations, we help ensure communities have access to resources that promote stability and well-being.



GOVERNANCE

Accountability That Builds Trust

Strong governance ensures Independent Bank continues to operate with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Our governance framework includes oversight from our Board of Directors, leadership teams, and internal compliance programs designed to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and regulatory compliance.

Independent Bank is regularly examined by state and federal regulators and maintains rigorous internal controls, cybersecurity programs, and risk management practices.



34

***compliance courses
completed annually on
average to employees***

Additional governance details can be found on our Investor Relations website.



PARTNERSHIPS

Working Together for Greater Impact

Independent Bank works with nonprofits, housing developers, schools, and economic development organizations to support sustained long-term community growth.

\$14.2M

invested in affordable housing partnerships since 2018

\$7.1M

in Affordable Housing Program grants secured with nonprofit developers since 2022

700

students reached through JA BizTown and Finance Park partnerships



By working together, we can create lasting change that benefits communities across Michigan.



Strong partnerships help amplify our community impact.



These partnerships help deliver programs that:

- *expand access to affordable housing*
- *promote financial education*
- *strengthen community development*
- *support local businesses*
- *have a multi-year impact*



ArtPrize exhibit created in partnership with Rebel Nell, a Michigan-based social enterprise that supports women facing social and employment barriers.

PROUD TO SUPPORT

Financial Education

We partner with local schools and organizations to bring real-world financial education to students across our communities. From interactive simulations to classroom support, we're helping the next generation build a stronger financial future.



\$862K

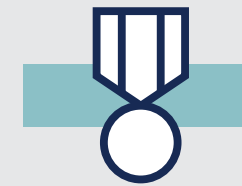
spent with women-owned businesses in 2025

\$278K

spent with minority-owned businesses in 2025

\$1.5M

total spent with diverse-owned businesses in 2025



Veteran-Owned Businesses

We're committed to supporting veteran-owned businesses that continue to lead and serve in new ways. By providing financial solutions and trusted guidance, we help veterans transition their skills into successful businesses that strengthen our communities.



Women-Owned Businesses

We're proud to partner with several women-owned businesses that are driving growth, creativity, and leadership across our communities. Through access to capital, guidance, and ongoing support, we're helping to turn ideas into lasting impact.



Minority-Owned Businesses

We actively invest in and partner with many minority-owned businesses that bring innovation, resilience, and new opportunities to our local economies. We're proud to help build a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Independent Bank is honored to be recognized for our commitment to community impact and employee culture.



MOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANTS APPROVED IN MI

(2019–2025)

PIPER SANDLER SM-ALL STAR BANK

(2024)

GREAT PLACE TO WORK CERTIFIED

(2023–2025)

50/50 WOMEN ON BOARDS “3+” COMPANY

(2020-2025)

MSHDA TOP 10 LENDER AWARD

(2017)



COMMUNITY BANKERS CUP

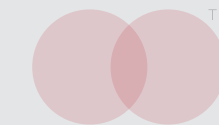
(2024)

FORBES BEST-IN-STATE BANK

(2018, 2019, 2023, 2024, 2025)

MICHIGAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL LITERACY AWARD

(2019–2025)



MASTERCARD COMMUNITY INSTITUTION INNOVATION AWARD

(2019-2021)

Honoring
Michael M. Magee, Jr.

Former CEO, Board member and Past Chairman for
Independent Bank Corporation and Independent Bank

Independent Bank honors the legacy of Michael M. Magee, Jr. whose leadership and commitment to community service left a lasting impact on our organization and the communities we serve. His dedication continues to inspire our employees to serve with purpose and integrity.



Be Independent 



IndependentBank.com