

## FUND BENEFITS SWISS VILLAGE CHILL



Working on homework in a supportive environment after school.

The Swiss Village CHILL (Complete Homework in a Learning Lab) is an afterschool enrichment program for middle school students. The program is designed to provide a safe, educationally-oriented after school program for students who will benefit from homework assistance. It is the third CHILL program in our area, others being the Community CHILL of River Haven and the CHILL program at Lakeshore Middle School. Sheri Norris and Lynn DeYoung, both of whom are affiliated with Grand Haven Area Public Schools, are Co-directors of the CHILL program.

Earlier this year, organizers approached the Fund about supporting the start-up of a third CHILL program to benefit middle school students who reside in the north bank. Students in the Swiss Village area who would benefit from the after school CHILL program were identified. Finding the project consistent with the focus of the Fund, the Advisory Committee recommended a \$2,500 start-up grant.

There is documented evidence of the academic improvement of the students in the first CHILL program. This is the primary reason for expanding the program to additional neighborhoods. In addition to providing after school learning space at the Swiss Village Community Building, snacks, rewards, school supplies,

computers and Internet service are all part of the program. "Our goal is to make a difference in the academic lives of academically challenged middle school students," says Sheri Norris. "With the help of a start-up grant from the North Bank Communities Fund, we will watch young people grow and thrive both academically and socially".

**NBCF**

North Bank Communities Fund  
A Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 146  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

**NBCF ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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# NORTH BANK NEWS

## FUND CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the North Bank Communities Fund celebrated 20 years of enhancing the environment, education and recreation in the communities north of the Grand River. The celebration was an evening of appreciation for our generous donors, and showcased several successful projects that best demonstrated the mission of the NBCF. These grants included sets of snowshoes purchased for Spring Lake High School students to explore our recreational trails, a tutoring program for middle school students living at or near Swiss Village apartments, the Mike Herman Memorial Field, and a grant to continue the development of the North Bank Trail. This evening also included a performance by grant recipient "The Jazzberries", West Michigan Academy of Arts



Spring Lake Rotary representatives Phil King and David Rhem present a check to support the NBCF's tree planting campaign to advisory committee members Curt Whiting and Arn Boezaart.

launched a \$20,000 Village of Spring Lake Tree Planting Campaign to help recreate the tree-lined boulevard and streets throughout the village. Spring Lake Rotary members generously presented the first \$10,000 from their Ticket to Riches event to help launch the project. Additionally, a challenge gift of up to \$5,000 from an anonymous donor was announced. The Fund now asks for your support in raising the \$5,000 match to complete the goal of raising \$20,000 for the NBCF Tree Planting Campaign.



The Jazzberries, one of several 2010 NBCF educational grant recipients, performed at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

and Academics' student jazz band. Rob Garrison, a donor to the North Bank Communities Fund, highlighted one of our favorite past grants to the North Ottawa Dunes project. His words of wisdom inspired us all to appreciate and make use of our beautiful environment and recreational opportunities, as well as the importance of continued giving to preserve our precious resources north of the Grand River.

In celebration of our past 20 years and looking forward to many, many successful years in the future, the Advisory Committee

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## FERRYSBURG SUNNYSIDE PARK RECEIVES GRANT

A long time goal of the Ferrysburg Recreation Commission and City Council has been to create a park on the east side of the City. In 2006, the City of Ferrysburg acquired the property at Valley City and West Spring Lake Road for the purpose of creating a park.

The City submitted two grant applications for funding to the Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to develop the park. However, their applications were not successful. Despite the set-back, the City Council made a commitment to the project and planned to make improvements at the park in phases. In May 2009, two playground equipment pieces were purchased and installed. Topsoil and an irrigation system were installed and the lawn was seeded.

Instantaneously, families, bikers, walkers and residents in nearby neighborhoods began to use the park, which led to requests for restroom facilities. Because of nearby residential properties and the high visibility of the park, the City Council determined that a permanent restroom building would be needed. Earlier this year, the Council moved ahead with planning and requested funding assistance from the NBCF. Following review, the Advisory Committee concluded that the project meets the guidelines of the fund and awarded a \$4,000 grant to assist the project. Construction of the new restroom facility will be completed before the end of 2010.

Not only will Ferrysburg residents benefit from this project, but also the large number of visitors and local residents who use the bike path that circles Spring Lake. Sunnyside Park will become a destination and rest stop for many. It is a project the Fund is pleased to support and is a great example of how our community fund can make a difference. The City of Ferrysburg has expressed its appreciation for the assistance from the North Bank Communities Fund in making this park improvement a reality.

## IN MEMORY OF . . .

The following is a list of individuals whose memory has been honored by family, friends and others through contributions to the Fund as a way to remember these special people in this special way:

Edith Mae and William Alt	George Knue
James Arraut	Leonard Koval
Eunice Bareham	James Lahey
William Barrett	John Lilly
Maartje Boezaart	Carl Lundgren
Roger Bolling	Eugene Markiewicz
Robert Bowen	Jean Marton
Charles 'Brad' Bradshaw	Thomas McKenzie
Carl Briegel	Baptist Mercurio
Arthur Bunce	Kyle Mooreland
Cheryl Burnside	Norma Olds
Abe Casemier	Herm Ott
Jay Casemier	Pat Palmer
Greg Carter	Clyde Peel
Arthur Charron	Harold Peters
Margaret Chittenden	Mark Pierantoni
Normand J. Christman	Vernon G. Poest
Kenneth DeWitt	Ken Ranta
Eugene Dreese	Eric Reynolds
Nicholas Dykehouse	Bernard Ricks
Richard Dykehouse	Alan Ruitter
Andy Fox	Scott Shuman
Esther Frandsen	Donald Sine
Bertha French	Roy David Taghon
Donald Gauthier	David D. Telander
Edgar Garrison	Leonard and Sadie Tomhave
Kenneth Harestad	Gordon VanBeek
Michael Herman	Lois VanderMeulen
Daniel Hysten	Emily (Amy) Williams
Walter Jansiewicz	Bill and Alna Wipperfurth
Robby Jerovsek	

## NORTH BANK CLASSROOM TEACHERS BENEFIT FROM TEACHER GRANTS

The North Bank Communities Fund awards teacher grants annually to classroom teachers in public and private schools located in the north bank communities of Ferrysburg, the Village of Spring Lake and Spring Lake Township. This is the eleventh year that the North Bank Communities Fund will award teacher grants as part of its community grant-making program.

The Fund's nine-member Advisory Committee awards teacher grants in varying amounts up to \$400 with an occasional special merit award to support a wide variety of special student learning opportunities and classroom experiences not covered by regular school budgets. Grant requests that integrate literacy and the environment or place-based education are given priority during the grant selection process.

One of last year's recipients, Byron Kelly, a Spring Lake Intermediate sixth grade teacher wrote to thank the fund for supporting a historical writing project in his class. He notes, "The books I was able to order will be a vital part of our language arts writing program. Without the funds I would have a very difficult time meeting state requirements. The kids love them and use them all the time. Thank you so much!" Garth Trask, a first grade teacher at Jeffers Elementary received funds to support an online reading library project. He wrote, "The online instructional tool allows teachers to assign specific stories to students' ability levels, which is perfect for differentiating each student's needs." The software allows teachers to monitor student progress with hundreds of stories available to assign to students.

All classroom teachers who receive grants incorporate their special learning activities into the current school year. All public, private and charter schools located in the north bank communities are eligible and are invited to participate in the annual competitive teacher grant program. Applications are forwarded through the principal offices at each north bank school after the start of the school year. This year's deadline for grant applications is October 15. To learn more, contact Laurel Nease at 847-8955.



SLHS students show off new snowshoes purchased with the assistance of a NBCF teacher grant.



A captive young audience learns about West Michigan history at the Spring Lake District Library.

## VOYAGEURS VISIT SPRING LAKE LIBRARY

Sixty students of various ages filled the Spring Lake District Library conference room on June 29. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum, with funding support from the North Bank Communities Fund, provided an educational opportunity for community students to learn about the history of voyageurs in Michigan and in the Tri-Cities area.

Mark King, Principal with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and one of the re-enactors at the museum, wowed the students with his talents. The students took voyageur rides in a canoe, held Michigan animal skins, learned about early maps of the area, as well as tools and objects that were traded throughout the Great Lakes. Mark spoke to the kids in his furs and voyageur attire. Students learned about the historical uses and the value of our land, and how the waterways were used during the voyageur era. Everyone loved being a voyageur for the day - a successful event supported by your fund!