

## PRESS RELEASE

For More Information, Call Holly Johnson, President,  
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, 616-842-6378

For Immediate Release

### **Community Foundation Awarded \$330,000 from Michigan Health Endowment Fund**

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF), in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area (CFHZ), has been awarded a \$330,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF). All funds from the MHEF grant must be re-granted within two years. To ensure this is an ongoing effort, each foundation has committed to another \$80,000, for an additional \$160,000, to sustain projects in the third year.

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund awarded more than \$8.5 million to 29 community foundations across the state, making it the Fund's second largest distribution of funds to improve the quality of health for Michigan's children and seniors. Community foundations were eligible to apply for grants in support of programs to improve the health of minor children and seniors in their regions. Those foundations receiving funding, in turn, now have the ability to offer local nonprofits the opportunity to seek grants that support similar programs.

"We are grateful for the collaboration between the MHEF, the Council of Michigan Foundations, and our Community Foundation partners around the State, who all came together to make this re-granting opportunity possible," said Holly Johnson, President of GHACF. "We are anxious to support programs that will create positive change in our community."

GHACF and CFHZ plan to award grants to projects and programs which advance positive action on the priority issues identified in the Ottawa County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The focus areas include access to health care, mental health, and healthy behaviors, with special emphasis on projects that impact the seniors and youth in our community.

“This effort is a great example of how working together grows impact,” said Mike Goorhouse, President of CFHZ. “From the partnership between the two community foundations to the many community stakeholders who developed the Community Health Improvement Plan, collaboration is helping us make the most of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund’s investment in Ottawa County.”

“We’re forming a joint grant distribution committee with members from both Grand Haven and Holland/Zeeland, as well as representatives from each foundation’s Youth Advisory Council,” said Beth Larsen, Director of Grants and Nonprofit Services at GHACF. “This is an exciting opportunity to mobilize resources from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to begin the work that will help our community make meaningful progress on our highest priority health issues.”

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving the Tri-Cities community since 1971. It encourages philanthropy by individuals, families, companies and organizations, and serves as a steward of their charitable funds and legacies. In addition to grants, the Foundation offers technical and management support to nonprofits, convenes nonprofit leaders on issues of importance, and engages in advocacy work with nonprofits primarily focused on the needs of the most vulnerable members of the Tri-Cities community. For more information, or to give a tax-deductible gift to the Greatest Needs Fund at the Foundation, visit [ghacf.org](http://ghacf.org) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation).

-end-