

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT TO HELP YOUTH PREPARE FOR STEM CAREERS

The Board of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is pleased to announce 10 first-quarter grant awards totaling \$447,250 to support the northern Ottawa County community, including a \$75,000 grant to Muskegon Community College for the MCC Downtown Center, an educational center that aims to better prepare local youth for careers in the STEM industries.

Northwest Ottawa County relies heavily on local manufacturing—particularly robotics, plastic injection molding, and 3D printing—and our local businesses need skilled trade workers to compete in the global market. The Downtown Technology Center will have labs and classrooms in the old Muskegon Chronicle Building in downtown Muskegon. The adjacent Masonic Temple Building will house a Makerspace Lab for community members to explore technologies and a Youth Entrepreneurial Space for youth study.

“Muskegon Community College is thankful to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for their generous support of our Downtown Center,” said MCC President Dale K. Nesbary. “We have been providing higher education to [area] students for decades both in Ottawa County and on our main campus. With the opening later this year of our state-of-the-art technology and entrepreneurial facilities located inside our Downtown Center, MCC envisions its graduates helping to build an even stronger economy across West Michigan in the years ahead.”

The MCC Downtown Center will offer programs and certifications in Alternative Energy, Computer Aided Design (CAD), Electricity, Electronics, Engineering, Foundry, Plastic Injection Molding, Robotics, and Industrial, Machining, Materials, and Welding Technology.

Other grants awarded:

- **Ottawa Area Intermediate School District:** \$15,000 for Help Me Grow–Ottawa, a program that works to connect families with resources that ensure our children are entering school ready to succeed.
- **City of Grand Haven:** \$100,000 to support the Save the Catwalk Campaign.
- **Bethany Christian Services:** \$22,500 for their Trauma Education Program, which provides trauma education to students, teachers/staff, and parents to help children feel safe in the learning environment.
- **Center for Women in Transition:** \$60,000 for their Coaching Boys into Men Program and other capital projects. This is a joint grant with the Youth Advisory Council.
- **The Salvation Army:** \$125,000 for A Campaign for Area Families & Children, which will be used to expand existing facilities to add and improve programming and community events.
- **St. Patrick – St. Anthony Parish:** \$30,000 for the portion of the Building/Renovation Project that includes the food pantry rooms, the Job Seekers program, and the GED/ESL Learning Lab.

Grants awarded by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

- **Camp Casey:** \$7,000 for Horsey House Calls to provide an afternoon of horse-assisted therapy, craft projects, and lunch to five Tri-Cities children living with cancer, sickle cell disease, and aplastic anemia, along with up to 30 friends and family members.
- **Grand Haven Area Public Schools:** \$5,000 to fund a Design/Video Course that teach students digital design, video/audio editing, and drone safety.
- **Grand Haven Aviation Association:** \$4,000 for ACE (Aviation Career Education) Camp, which exposes community youth to aviation careers, safety, and aerodynamic principles.
- **Ottawa County Department of Public Health:** \$3,750 to the Grand Haven Meet Up and Eat Up for a site coordinator for River Haven Mobile Home Park and Loutit District Library.

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 or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation.

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