

# PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **Community Foundation Kicks Off Funding for Waterfront Stadium**

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) leadership announced in a press conference on April 21 a \$3M gift to kick off the fund development efforts for Waterfront Stadium. This surprise gift to the community was made possible because of the generous legacy left by Lynne Sherwood—a local philanthropist who recently passed away.

“We are a community that is steeped in generosity, and sometimes through loss and sadness we can create opportunities that take our breath away,” said GHACF President Holly Johnson. “Lynne Sherwood was one of our community’s most generous philanthropists and her bequest to the Foundation will have a broad and positive impact on this community forever.” Johnson went on to say, “While Lynne’s death is still painful, she put great trust in the Community Foundation to facilitate her legacy and ensure that her generosity will continue into perpetuity.

“The GHACF Board felt it was important that Lynne’s name be associated with something that would positively and beautifully impact all of our residents,” Johnson continued. “Her legacy will live on in this community in many meaningful ways, but we want people to continue asking the question “who is Lynne Sherwood”, because when we answer that question, we will be able to reflect on the generous, intelligent, quiet trail-blazer that Lynne was.”

Many community stakeholders have been involved in the visioning and planning process for revitalizing Waterfront Stadium. A core committee, led by community leader Steve Loftis, has been consistently diligent in keeping this conversation alive and ensuring that the planning moves forward in a constructive manner.

“This very generous gift is more than we could have expected,” said Grand Haven Mayor Geri McCaleb. “The Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium will certainly enhance the waterfront experience in Grand Haven. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but this gift is a great boost to the project.”

“The JSJ family of companies have been an integral part in the development along the banks of the Grand River since the founding of the Loutit Foundation,” said Joy Gaasch, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg. “It’s important that Lynne’s servant leadership to our community is remembered to encourage future philanthropists to follow in her footsteps. This stadium is a testament to Lynne’s individual and corporate commitment to philanthropy that will improve the quality of life for generations to come.”

Waterfront Stadium is a community project that has the full support of City Council. The city will rely on other grants and community donations to reach the full fundraising goal. It is expected that a comprehensive fund development plan will be announced soon and that gifts of all levels will be sought from residents of all seven of our local municipalities.

Donations to the Waterfront Stadium Fund can be made through GHACF. For more information, or to give a tax-deductible gift to Waterfront Stadium, visit [ghacf.org/donate](http://ghacf.org/donate).

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. Follow us on Facebook to see all the news of the Foundation at [www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation).

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