

PRESS RELEASE

For More Information, Call Holly Johnson, President,
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For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$290,080 IN FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS

The Boards of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and the Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund are pleased to announce eleven fourth quarter grant awards totaling \$290,080 to support the Tri-Cities community.

Tri-Cities Historical Museum – Collections Facilities and Improvements Program

Amount Awarded: \$75,000

Purpose: The *Tri-Cities Historical Museum* currently stores over 60,000 artifacts and the existing space constraints have led to storing items in a way that could damage this collection of amazing local history. Relocating the artifacts and collections to this new facility will increase the museum's operational capacity, plus the public will have access to this space to utilize computers, conduct research, and meet with collections staff. The building acquisition has been divided into five phases and is currently in the first phase of acquiring and preparing the new facility for storage and use. This is an active community campaign. To find out how you can support the museum, please contact Laurel Nease at 616-842-0700 or lnease@tri-citiesmuseum.org.

Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department – Spoonville Trail - Phase II

Amount Awarded: \$35,000

Purpose: *Spoonville Trail* is the non-motorized pathway that connects the Grand River Greenway to the North Bank trail along M231. It's a critical piece of the Grand Connection, a recreational project to construct and connect three regional pathways, which will provide non-motorized access between the Tri-Cities, GVSU, and Grand Rapids. Phase II of this project will connect Phase I of the trail to the North Bank Trail in Nunica.

Wetland Watch – Sustainable Control of Invasive Phragmites

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Purpose: *Wetland Watch* plans to utilize aerial drones to locate and target areas with new phragmite growth in late summer of 2016, with the treatment process to begin in 2017. *Wetland Watch* has worked to control invasive phragmites in Spring Lake, Lloyds Bayou and its channel to the Grand River, a majority of the islands in the Grand River, as well as properties along the river, since 2011.

Every Woman’s Place – “Discover, Heal, Grow” Capital Campaign

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Purpose: *Every Woman’s Place/Webster House Youth Services* is conducting a capital campaign to renovate and improve their facility, which includes their emergency shelter and service center. The current building is not meeting the needs and demands of service and programs offered; funding will allow EWP/WHYS to increase their capacity to serve youth in crisis, improve current programming, and improve the efficiency and security of the building.

Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging – Patio Enhancement Program

Amount Awarded: \$11,280

Purpose: *Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging* plans to install a LiveWall vertical garden to provide fresh produce to its members. A recent Masterpiece Living Lifestyle Inventory survey reported that over 90% of Four Pointes members do not consume the recommended 5+ fruits and vegetables per day. The LiveWall will address this issue, while also allowing Four Pointes staff to provide meal preparation education to its members.

Gracious Grounds

Amount Awarded: \$55,000

Purpose: *Gracious Grounds* is establishing a home to provide an affordable, friendly, and resident-centered environment for adults with disabilities within the Tri-Cities community. Their goal is to create a forever home for individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on life-enriching activities and togetherness. The initial scope of the project is to house six residents, with hopes to continue to grow in the future.

Greater Ottawa County United Way – Ottawa Housing Next - Phase II

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Purpose: For the past two years, the *Greater Ottawa County United Way* has been engaged in a community-wide conversation regarding the lack of affordable housing in our community. Phase II of Ottawa Housing Next Initiative entails creating the plan that will eventually lead to more affordable housing options in Ottawa County.

Indian Trails Camp – Access for All

Amount Awarded: \$12,000

Purpose: *Indian Trails Camp* has strengthened their partnership with Ottawa County Community Mental Health in response to the recent Kandu closing. They will continue to provide vocational services to individuals with disabilities, but to fill the gap in services, our grant will provide two additional vans to their fleet to provide transportation to those individuals who are most in need.

Pathways, MI – Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey

Amount Awarded: \$2,000

Purpose: The Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey asks 8th, 10th, and 12th graders a variety of questions about activities, behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions that impact health and quality of life in Ottawa County. This grant will provide data analysis and reporting of the survey.

Northwest Ottawa County Chamber Foundation – Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connections

Amount Awarded: \$4,800 over two years

Purpose: The goal of the Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connections: Bridging Community Perspectives with Small Circles of Change is to bring 8th and 10th graders from Grand Haven Area and Muskegon Public Schools together so they can develop leadership skills and learn about each others communities. This grant will support the Leadership Development Consultant.

The Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan, Inc. – Family Support Program

Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Purpose: The Family Support Program for the Tri-Cities area provides room and board for families from the Tri-Cities area while their children receive medical treatment in Grand Rapids. While RMHWM

receives a majority of its funding from the Grand Rapids area, they also serve residents from our community and this grant will improve the level of service provided to those families.

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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