

PRESS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$298,400 IN SECOND QUARTER GRANTS

The Boards of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, the Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund, and the Youth Advisory Council are pleased to announce 12 second quarter grant awards totaling \$298,400 to support the Tri-Cities community.

Tri-Cities Historical Museum – Dancing on the Grand

Amount Awarded: \$7,500

Purpose: Dancing on the Grand has been a Grand Haven waterfront tradition since 1972. It primarily serves adults 50 years and older and provides a great opportunity for older adults to engage socially in a safe and fun physical activity. This grant will allow the program to continue for another five years.

Spring Lake Township – Rycenga Park Bathroom Expansion

Amount Awarded: \$15,000

Purpose: Roughly 16,700 people visit Rycenga Park each year. This grant will allow for the addition of four unisex and one handicap bathroom to the existing facilities.

Grand Haven Area Public Schools – ALEKS Math Support

Amount Awarded: \$29,400 over 2 years

Purpose: ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) Math Support provides after-school tutoring for all students, regardless of their level of math proficiency. This math program, which is already being used in some 3rd, 4th, and 6th grade classes, provides a personalized learning path for students' individual needs.

Spring Lake Public Schools – Every Classroom a Rich, Literate Workshop – Instructional Consistency

Amount Awarded: \$41,000 over 3 years

Purpose: Spring Lake Public Schools would like to create literacy experts in every SLPS elementary classroom by sending the K–4th grade teachers to the Teacher’s College Reading Institute at Columbia University. Classroom a Rich, Literate Workshop – Instructional Consistency is a four-year program that will train teachers in the Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Project method of teaching reading.

Outdoor Discovery Center – GHAPS Nature-Based Education Partnership

Amount Awarded: \$75,000 over 3 years

Purpose: This partnership will provide universal access to nature-based education programming throughout the GHAPS district. This pilot program program will focus on four elementary and middle school grade levels and will meet curriculum requirements for each grade selected.

Hope Network – Lakeshore Life Skills Employment Center

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Purpose: The Lakeshore Life Skills Employment Center will assist individuals with physical disabilities overcome their limitations by providing opportunities for developmentally disabled adults obtain employable skills. The Center will serve 50 developmentally disabled individuals annually and hopes to fill the void left by Kandu.

Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance/Community SPOKE – Enhanced Operating Support

Amount Awarded: \$60,000 over 3 years

Purpose: This grant will allow the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance/Community SPOKE to increase its capacity by hiring an additional person to oversee membership services.

The following grants were awarded by the Youth Advisory Council:

Friends of Grand Haven State Park – School-Age Playground

Amount Awarded: \$7,000

Purpose: The Friends of the Grand Haven State Park plans to create a new, inclusive playground at the north end of the State Park. The group will utilize a focus group of elementary-school children aged 6-12—the target age for the new playground – to assist with the selection of equipment.

Pathways, MI – Total Trek Quest – Grand Haven Team Support

Amount Awarded: \$7,500

Purpose: The Total Trek Quest program teaches boys in grades 3-5 about healthy decision making, positive coping skills, and the risks of alcohol and cigarettes, as well as providing information for parents to talk to their children about substance abuse. This grant will allow Pathways, MI to increase the volunteer pool and train coaches.

Grand Rapids Children Museum – Discovering Play

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Purpose: The Discovering Play program promotes an increase in school readiness for at-risk preschool-aged children. Parents and children attend a session that includes play and healthy snacks, along with information for parents about the importance of play and how it can be incorporated into daily lives. This grant will allow the expansion of Discovering Play to the Tri-Cities area.

Junior Achievement – Empower Youth of Spring Lake

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Purpose: Junior Achievement would like to pilot five Blended Learning Model Programs at Spring Lake Middle School, impacting 125 students. The model gives students the opportunity to learn about the global workforce and discover possible career pathways by playing the role of business owners and managers at the international Free Trade Market.

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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