

PRESS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO ASSIST LOCAL VETERANS

The Board of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation awarded a \$10,000 competitive grant to Out Side In, Inc., with an additional \$10,000 matched by the Barbara and Miller Sherwood Family Advised Fund.

The \$20,000 grant to Out Side In will assist with the launch of their pilot program, "Horses for Heroes," an Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program designed to assist U.S. veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental or emotional dysfunction. Veterans will be paired with horses who have been rescued from the race track and were at risk for slaughter, caring for their physical injuries and guiding their emotional and behavioral rehabilitation. They will also meet weekly with a therapist who will help them process their experiences with the horse and relate it to their personal progress.

"There are so many parallels between the race horses and the veterans returning from war. The rehabilitation of the horses is often focused on many of the same issues that veterans face emotionally and physiologically, which provides a very unique opportunity for connection, understanding, and emotional growth for both the horse and the veteran," says Jennifer McVoy, Executive Director of Out Side In.

Horses for Heroes will be the only program designed to specifically target the unique needs of the 5,000 veterans in Ottawa County who have been diagnosed with a mental health or emotional impairment.

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 serving 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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