

PRESS RELEASE

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Community Foundation Named Finalist in MiBiz Best Managed Nonprofit Awards

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) was named a co-finalist in the MiBiz Best Managed Nonprofit Awards in the large organization category. The awards “spotlight best business practices and excellence by nonprofit organizations throughout the region.” Awards for small, medium, and large organizations, as well as a professional achievement and young professional, were given at a ceremony Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at the Goei Center in Grand Rapids.

“We’re honored to be recognized regionally for the impact that we are having in Northwest Ottawa County,” said Holly Johnson, President of the GHACF. “Solving complex systemic issues requires strong partnerships, strategic collaboratives, and a variety of resources. We remain grateful to all of our partners, our incredibly generous donors, and our Board of Trustees—past and present.”

The nomination focused on the work the GHACF has done to help develop the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium, which will open this year. This will be a waterfront green space that our community will be proud of—and other communities will be inspired to recreate for themselves. This space will be more environmentally conscious, with less concrete and more grass to protect our natural ecosystems. Mostly, it will be a place for all to enjoy our waterfront and will forever serve as a way to remember a dedicated local philanthropist, Lynne Sherwood.

“Our visioning and funding of Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium is a shining example of how we are working with all sectors to better our community today and forever,” said Johnson. “The

people in our community are familiar with our mission, and we're excited to share our good work with the larger West Michigan community.”

The GHACF was a co-finalist with the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland. The two foundations are working together on Housing Next, a cross-sector collaborative initiative involving nonprofit, government, and business partners that have strived to create and promote a strong economic case for additional workforce housing units in the greater Ottawa County region of Michigan.

Other Lakeshore organizations were also recognized. The Center for Women in Transition was named the finalist for medium-sized organization, and Extended Grace was the winner for small organization.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving Northwest Ottawa County community since 1971. GHACF is regularly recognized as a top 100 Community Foundation in the nation and is the 7th largest community foundation in the State of Michigan. It encourages philanthropy by individuals, families, corporations, and organizations, and serves as a steward of their charitable funds and legacies. In addition to awarding grants, the Foundation offers technical support to nonprofits, convenes community leaders on issues of importance, and advocates for the nonprofit sector. For more information visit ghacf.org.

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attachments:

- photo “HollyJohnson_MiBiz_012418” – Holly Johnson, President of GHACF
- photo “GHACF_MiBiz_012418” – Barb VanHeest (GHACF Board), Tammy Bailey (GHACF Board Chair), Holly Johnson (GHACF president), Colleen Mitchell (Consultant, Venture3Philanthropy), Melanie Swiftney (GHACF Director of Marketing & Communications), Monica Verplank (GHACF Board)