Our sector has always been identified as the "nonprofit" sector. The two others are the private (business) and public (government) sectors. Why are we the only sector that identifies itself by what we are not? True, we are not profit seeking, but well-functioning, high-performing nonprofits absolutely need to have a positive balance sheet.

No money, no mission, right?

The difference is that we invest our profits in our missions and communities, not owners or shareholders.

**We’re on a mission to talk less about being a NON profit and more about being a FOR impact community organization.**
What a remarkable year 2017 was for the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. We linked arms with the grassroots committee that worked to raise community dollars to Save the Catwalk, we broke ground and completed the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium, and we've helped launch one of the most comprehensive initiatives ever in our county to address our lack of workforce housing.

All of the work that we do is a result of being well supported by our community—thank you! We continue to increase our grantmaking footprint in our region, and we have been able to do this because of the people in our community who have started funds or left their bequests unrestricted to the community foundation.

We were honored to receive the Nonprofit Pinnacle of Partnership Award by the Greater Ottawa County United Way, to be a co-finalist for Best Managed Nonprofits by MiBiz, and a finalist for the Visionary Award by Lakeshore Advantage.

But we’re not stopping there. We are using this momentum to think bigger. To think different. We have challenged ourselves to start talking less about being a NON profit and more about being a FOR impact community organization, and we invite you to join us in this new way of thinking.

We will never stop looking for ways to make our community better for all. It takes a village, and a city, as well as townships, schools, churches, for-impact organizations and more, to care for our ever-changing communities. Everything we do is done with partnerships and collaborations in mind. We are grateful for our many community relationships and we are always looking for new ones.

Sincerely,

Randy Hansen
Chair, Board of Trustees
Vision: We advance the well-being of our communities by creating the very best places to live, learn, work, give, and engage.

Mission: We enhance the quality of life for all by working together to collectively address challenges and opportunities throughout West Michigan.

What’s our GIG?

Gifts In: Inspire greater philanthropy

Grants Out: Provide grant capital & mission-related investments

Investments Up: Invest & steward sustainable resources

Our Guiding Values:
- stewardship
- exceptional & empowering service
- integrity
- entrepreneurial spirit
- inclusion

Leadership Effectiveness

Time:
- Convener
- Introducer
- Guide

Talent:
- Genuine Listener
- Shared Community Knowledge Center
- Innovator

Treasure:
- Inviter
- Steward
- Funder
- Educator
- Legacy-Creator

Ties:
- Cross-Sector Partner
- Capacity Builder
- Problem Solver

What Success Looks Like:
- Our community is inspired to greater giving that advances our mission
- Our endowment is stewarded to give yet also to grow
- Our for-impact partners and donors are our catalysts for greater community understanding and change
where we give

Total granted from all GHACF funds = $5,241,536

We are our community's charitable foundation and we're proud of our role as a community grantmaker. We're here to improve and enhance the quality of life by promoting healthy, inclusive, and diverse communities within West Michigan.

In 2017, a total of $5,241,536 went back to your community from all funds, and of that, $1,512,427 was awarded in grants from our Greatest Needs Funds, Field of Interest Funds, and the Youth Fund.

Amount granted through our responsive and impact-driven grantmaking = $1,512,427

- Arts, Culture & Diversity: $12,000
- Environment: $138,000
- Education: $319,927
- Economic & Community Betterment: $121,000
- Miscellaneous: $10,500
- Health & Human Services: $911,000

2018-19 Grants Committee

Our grantmaking committee is made up of board members and a representative from our Youth Advisory Council. Together they make the critical decisions to care for our community.

Anil Mandala, Chair
Cindy Anderson

Sandy Huber
Mark Kleist

Mark Pereira
Ellen Stolarski, YAC

Pat VerDuin
Randy Hansen, Ex-Officio
For a community to flourish, we must learn from one another’s experiences and work to understand each other’s perspectives. Each spring, the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA) hosts the Summit on Race & Inclusion, a one-day conference that strives to facilitate this understanding. Participants learn how racial biases affect communities economically and socially, understand how inclusion benefits everyone, develop tools to make a positive difference in our community, and link arms with one another to continue shaping a prosperous and inclusive future.

The Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance was founded in 1996, and the GHACF was one of the fiduciary sponsors. Bonded together by the desire to create an inclusive and welcoming community for all, the ordinary turned into the extraordinary when they dedicated themselves to dismantling barriers.

Today LEDA represents a broad cross-section of interests and cultures. Hundreds of volunteers and a growing staff work on diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout the region, alongside dozens of area CEOs and community stakeholders engaged in moving forward a vision of racial equity.

Every year, the GHACF team and Board of Trustees attend and participate in this crucial gathering to learn from our neighbors and further heighten our understanding of how we can better care for everyone in our community.

"LEDA is grateful for the GHACF’s support of our efforts to advance racial equity within our community. The success of programs such as the Summit on Race and Inclusion would not be possible without their dedication to our mission." — Latoya Booker, M.Ed., Executive Director of LEDA
Just as we need to immerse children in water to teach them to swim, we must also immerse them in a wide variety of high-quality, current, and culturally-relevant reading materials to teach them to read. Access to robust classroom libraries inspire a lifelong love for learning and support the development of students’ character skills and appreciation for diversity in all cultures and perspectives.

Research has shown that at least 1,500 high-quality titles are needed in every elementary classroom, and that the quantity and availability of these types of books is directly proportional to students’ academic achievement. World-Class Classroom Libraries, an Ottawa Area Intermediate School District program, equips every K-4 grade classroom library in the Grand Haven and Spring Lake school districts with robust and relevant classroom titles so students have immediate access to the most current and quality books.

In 2016, the State of Michigan passed a law designed to improve third grade literacy outcomes. This law requires all students, starting with grade three, to read at or near grade level or potentially face mandatory retention. This has increased the urgency within our local school districts to not only guarantee students meet these new requirements, but also provide them the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

The libraries align with the readers’ workshop model of instruction that has been adopted by both school districts. Books are organized by reading level and reflect various topics of interest, as well as cultural relevance. With nearly 300 students at risk within our districts, World-Class Classroom Libraries levels the playing field for students and helps give kids the boost they may need.

“We want kids to learn to read, but we also want them to love to read, so that they continue to grow in literacy throughout their lives. We can support that growth best in classroom environments with abundant reading materials aligned to students’ interests. This grant is going to greatly accelerate our ability to provide these essential resources to our children.”

— Dr. Kyle Mayer, Assistant Superintendent at OAISD
“There is a capitalization and technical assistance capacity gap all along the lakeshore,” said Bonnie Nawara, CEO of **GROW (Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women)**.

GROW is a Small Business Association (SBA) authorized Women’s Business Center, as well as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Their Small Business Lending Program is an initiative designed to improve access to credit for men and women who demonstrate the ability to operate successfully but are traditionally under-served. All of GROW’s lending and trainings are non-gender specific.

Our grant provided funding to open a new office on the lakeshore and hire a Business Development Officer.

“[The lakeshore] also has a large population of Latino-owned businesses,” said Nawara. “The funds from this grant have allowed us to provide clients with more access to capital and technical assistance, which then increases the number of startups in the area and drives revenue up for those who are in business but need growth assistance.”

The economic impact of businesses that are able to launch and grow, create jobs, and access critical technical and financial resources will result in a stronger, more locally-owned and operated region. Financial support along the lakeshore has allowed GROW to extend its services to new and existing businesses in need of guidance, direction, support, coaching and mentoring, financing, and more on an ongoing basis.

“GROW would not be as successful without the support of strategic partners such as GHACF. This partnership has helped to strengthen the professional team and bandwidth of GROW, enabling the organization to reach and assist a greater number of entrepreneurs, especially in underserved and more rural areas.” — **Karen Benson, Business Development Officer, GROW West Michigan Lakeshore**
“Studies confirm over and over again that the most important thing to regaining or maintaining health is human connection,” said Barbara Lee VanHorssen, Experi-mentor of Extended Grace. “But those who struggle with mental illness, addictions, and disabilities have genuine barriers when it comes to making those connections and are at high risk of isolation and worsening health.”

This is the heart of Extended Grace, a for-impact, grassroots social lab that builds community while solving problems. The organization believes that “as human beings we can all do a better job extending grace to each other and to ourselves.” They provide opportunities to do so by forming collaborative relationships and offering programs and events to nurture, educate, and inspire individuals so that together we can address issues of social justice and human rights.

Extended Grace serves over 150 members, who each pay a $1 annual membership fee. The center offers a variety of programming, such as movie nights and community conversations, and recently added teen-specific programming. They currently operate seven days per week and have a wheelchair accessible bus to help with transportation.

“One in five Americans have a disability, and one in four will suffer from mental illness in their lifetime,” said Lee. “People now have the opportunity to experience new life in a community that is safe, welcoming, and dismantling stereotypes and stigma.”

"Because of the support of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, we were able to cover the start-up costs for the Momentum Center for Social Engagement. By offering social and recreational programs for those with mental illness, addictions and disabilities, the Momentum Center provides a safe community for our most vulnerable residents while breaking down misunderstandings and stigma.” — Barbara Lee VanHorssen, Experi-mentor, Extended Grace
We believe that a community that embraces arts enriches all lives. One organization working to help visual artists is the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective (LVAC). Their mission is to create a sustainable artist community by partnering with businesses, community organizations, and private individuals to create diverse visual arts events that provide a platform for artists to thrive, grow, and connect with the community.

LVAC achieves this through Pop Up Art shows, which give artists innovative networking opportunities in a fun environment. The All Member show is a unique opportunity for the entire community to come together in support of local artists and see for themselves what kind of talent we have right here along the lakeshore.

LVAC takes art shows a step further by partnering with area for-profit organizations and donating a portion of the proceeds of art sales to those organizations. Past shows have furthered community impact through contributions to the Center for Women in Transition and ArtWalk.

"Glass Source provided an excellent venue [for the All Member Art Show]," said Maggie Bandstra, Chair, LVAC. "The music and overall atmosphere added to the lovely experience for all who attended." In addition to the $6,000 raised through the sale of local art, "we were able to raise about $3,000 through door donations and a small percentage of the art sales."

"Through the generous donation of GHACF, we were able to host our first annual LVAC All Member Show, where we sold around $6,000 worth of local art and created networking opportunities for the artists and the community. These funds will help us continue to be a sustainable art nonprofit with the majority of the artist's sales going directly to them."

— Maggie Bandstra, Chair, LVAC
The Ottawa County Parks Foundation is focused on providing more green spaces and recreation opportunities in Ottawa County. People of all ages crave connection to the wonderful variety of outdoor experiences that Michigan offers, but most people don’t have their own significant greenspace.

The 26-mile Grand River Explorers Trail, which will connect Grand Rapids with the lakeshore, is part of Ottawa County’s goal to expand recreational opportunities and increase access to nature to create a healthier and more economically vibrant community. Our grant to the Ottawa County Parks Foundation for their Grand River Explorers Trail – Sterns Bayou Connector will fund a trail on the 2.4 mile gap between Connor Bayou and the Grand Haven Township Mercury Drive Pathway, as part of the growing regional trail system around the Grand River. A pedestrian crossing over the bayou will also be included in the funding. Plans are already in place to connect Connor Bayou, Riverside County Park, and the M-231 Grand River Bridge in Robinson Township.

“This very generous gift from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation provides a real boost to our Grand River Greenway Campaign,” said Tom Werkman, President of the Ottawa County Parks Foundation. “In particular, this major grant will help ensure that the Grand Haven area is connected to our beautiful Grand River Greenway parks and the M-231 Grand River Bridge trail.”

“The Ottawa County Parks Foundation is excited to have the community foundation’s support for this project, which we believe will transform the community and help reconnect people to the Grand River.” — Tom Werkman, President of the Ottawa County Parks Foundation
collaborating to improve Ottawa County

what's the issue?

Housing Next was created in the fall of 2017 by a collaboration of community organizations in response to the significant demand from the local workforce for more housing at a variety of price points.

Why is this work necessary?

West Michigan has a significant shortage of skilled workers. The local talent powering our centers of manufacturing and shop floors are increasingly unable to live in Ottawa County due to rising housing prices. This puts a strain on family budgets where workers are either travelling 20, 30, or 50 miles to get to work, or spending more than 35% of their annual income on housing costs. In turn, this has a dramatic impact on the competitiveness of our region to not only attract talent, but to support our companies and maintain a sustainable economy over the long term.

Why is housing so expensive?

Following the housing crash and great recession in 2007/2008, there were large numbers of foreclosed homes across the region, which were more often purchased by distant investment groups than by local families. Many of those homes are now rented instead of owner-occupied. Also, the West Michigan construction market took a big hit by 2010. After two solid years of very little construction, many skilled workers either found other means of employment or left Michigan. The market for new construction has returned, but there aren’t enough workers in the market to fulfill the demand for new housing construction. Finally, wage growth has been slow for middle class workers over the last two decades, while the cost of housing in some sub-markets in the region has increased by more than 30%.

Mission: to unlock market-driven, community-based solutions to make workforce housing affordable for all in the greater Ottawa County region. This is a long-term strategy designed to allow all those who work within the area to also have the choice to live in the area and maintain a high quality of life.

why this is important

The cost of basic household expenses in Ottawa County is more than many jobs can support.

According to the 2012 Greater Ottawa County United Way’s Community Assessment, 49.8% of surveyed households struggle paying for housing needs every single month. As expected, the new ALICE report shows a 1% increase in the Household Survival Budget. The costs for a household to survive have increased over the last three years. A single adult is spending 8% more and a household of four, 6% more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Survival Budget, Ottawa County</th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$590</td>
<td>$730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$1,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$349</td>
<td>$697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$197</td>
<td>$342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly total</td>
<td>$1,654</td>
<td>$4,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$19,848</td>
<td>$56,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly wage</td>
<td>$9.92</td>
<td>$28.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>$11,770</td>
<td>$24,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed
how do we solve it?

Increase supply at all price points

While the top priority for Housing Next is to increase the availability of housing for our workforce earning less than $50,000 per year, we will be champions and advocates for new housing across all price points.

For example, by providing more housing options for baby-boomers looking to retire into smaller homes within walking distance to neighborhood amenities, those older and larger single-family homes then become available for young families with children. This creates a positive cascade effect down the housing market and increasing the overall availability of homes for sale.

Provide support for workforce housing

We will work with communities across the region to find creative solutions to provide more housing without putting undue strain on existing infrastructure. We will recommend creative financing mechanisms, innovative design practices, and greater flexibility in local regulatory requirements. And we’ll push for economic efficiencies in construction costs, while ensuring a continuation of the high-quality community character that is prevalent across the region.

We’ll also work directly with developers to support new projects that are in close proximity to regional employers and neighborhood services.

Another option is to create more market choices for mobility across the region by working to focus new development in areas where public transportation or private ride-sharing services are readily available and convenient to use. This will allow each family to make their own choices to own multiple vehicles or scale back to a single-car household and save on transportation costs.

Strengthen partnerships

By establishing partnerships with existing for-impact organizations, community groups, and church organizations to support families in need of housing, we’ll increase the capacity of existing organizations, forge new partnerships across the region, and leverage the talent and inspiration of all those who are willing to dedicate some time, talent, or funding for these efforts.

Finally, we’ll work alongside our economic development partners to support large and small businesses by creating a business-friendly environment that encourages wage increases commensurate with the increase in the cost of living.

There is big work ahead and none of it can be accomplished without the support of the community at large.

"Ottawa County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Michigan for several years running. More than 2,200 new residents moved into the county in 2016 and that trend is on pace to continue. There is a strong manufacturing base, high quality of life, and good schools at the K-12 academic level. However, demand for housing is growing faster than supply."

– Ryan Kilpatrick, Director of Housing Next

Income levels have remained relatively flat. Housing costs from 2000-2012 have continued to rise according to the American Community Survey.

Cost of Renting vs. Earnings in the Area
2017 HUD Fair Market Rent Amounts for Holland/Grand Haven MSA and the corresponding hourly wage needed to afford these rents. (Based on 30% of gross monthly income.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Size</th>
<th>1 BR</th>
<th>2BR</th>
<th>3BR</th>
<th>4BR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair Market Rent</td>
<td>$670</td>
<td>$773</td>
<td>$1,105</td>
<td>$1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Needed</td>
<td>$12.88</td>
<td>$14.87</td>
<td>$21.25</td>
<td>$21.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of FT Jobs at Minimum Wage</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from Greater Ottawa County United Way’s Ottawa Housing Next. www.ottawaunitedway.org/ottawa-housing-next
funds of the foundation

The types of funds at the community foundation reflect the varied interests of our fund holders and donors. Whether they are advised, designated or unrestricted, new or longstanding, endowed or non-endowed, they are evidence of the spirit of generosity of individuals, families, corporations, and organizations seeking to make a positive impact in our community today, tomorrow, and forever.

**types of funds**

- **greatest needs funds**
  - Enable the GHACF to remain proactive, responsive, and flexible to our community’s most critical needs.
  - **minimum to open**: $5,000
  - **number of funds at the GHACF**: 36

- **field of interest funds**
  - Connect personal values to high-impact opportunities and allow individuals to target their gifts to address needs in a specific area.
  - **minimum to open**: $5,000
  - **number of funds at the GHACF**: 41

- **donor & corporate advised funds**
  - Allow an individual, family, or company the ability to establish a charitable fund, then recommend grants while the Foundation staff administers the grants.
  - **minimum to open**: $5,000
  - **number of funds at the GHACF**: 191

- **organizational funds**
  - Provide for-impact (nonprofit) organizations income streams to support programs and operations.
  - **minimum to open**: $5,000
  - **number of funds at the GHACF**: 202

- **scholarship funds**
  - Invest in the next generation with post-secondary education assistance and build a foundation for a brighter tomorrow.
  - **minimum to open**: $25,000
  - **number of funds at the GHACF**: 123

* FASB funds not included in total number of funds

**endowed vs. non-endowed funds**

The primary difference between endowed and non-endowed funds is the permanency.

- Endowed funds live on in perpetuity and ensure a legacy of giving. They are invested and follow the current GHACF spending policy, which is based on a formula that is 4% of a three-year rolling average of the December 31 fund balance. The administrative fee on endowed funds is 1% annually (scholarship funds = 1.5%).

- Non-endowed funds, while invested the same as our endowed funds, are not required to follow the GHACF spending policy and may be spent down over time. The administrative fee on non-endowed funds is 1.5% annually.

* Administrative fees are assessed quarterly, based on the market value of the fund.
meeting changing community needs

Giving to our greatest needs fund, or establishing a named greatest needs fund, is a wonderful way to enable us to remain proactive, responsive, and flexible to our community’s most critical needs. As we say, “forever is a really long time,” and we remain committed to being an impactful funder forever.

40th Anniversary Greatest Needs Fund
Thomas and Mary Kay Alguire Family Fund
Allendale Greatest Needs Fund
BR Fund
Janet and Ruth Beukema Fund
Janice Carducci Fund
Coopersville Community Action Fund
David and Carol DeBlaey Fund
Howard Dykhous Fund
Dr. Edgar and Gretchen Garrison Family Fund
Kent M. and Freida Hastings Family Fund
Doris V. Johnson Fund
F. Martin Johnson Greatest Needs Fund
Ausma Lanka Fund
Amy Lantz Memorial Fund
Lee Family Fund
Paul and Minnie Luytjes Fund
Garry L. and Jean Fisher Mesler Family Fund
Grand Haven Area Greatest Needs Fund
Dorothy Mixer Fund
Dr. Harold Sheridan Fund
Lynne Sherwood Fund
Marion A. Sherwood Family Fund
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Greatest Needs Fund

Janice Carducci Fund

Legacy gifts occasionally come to us unexpectedly, and while we never knew Janice, we learned that she was a teacher on the east side of the state and that each summer she would come back to Grand Haven to visit family and help care for her mother. Janice loved our community and we are honored to hold this unrestricted greatest needs fund that will allow us to support many community initiatives in Janice’s name—forever.

James & Diana Wright Fund

James and Diana Wright were inspired to open their donor advised fund for two reasons. First was the opportunity to advance community institutions which “do unto others” by providing services or cultural opportunities. Second, to support the many environmental organizations dedicated to securing the health of our planet and the lifeforms, including our species, for which earth is home.
connecting personal values to high-impact opportunities

Field of interest funds connect personal values to high-impact opportunities and allow you to target your gift to address needs in a specific area.

Edith Mae and William Alt Family Fund
Richard E. and Eleanor Carlson Babcock Memorial Fund
Emilie Baker Fund for the Environment
William T. and Shirley A. Baker Family Fund
College Access Endowed Fund

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Arts and Culture Fund
Environment Fund
Family and Children Fund
Technical Assistance Fund
Grand Haven Area Youth Fund (YAC)
Gene and Sally Harbeck Fund
Healthy Seniors Healthy Youth Funds

Marie and Lloyd O’Neal Fund for Music
North Bank Communities Fund
North Ottawa Area Community Coalition Fund
Reichardt Family Endowment
Helene D. and Bernath P. Sherwood, Jr. Fund
Mary Ann Sherwood Families and Children Field of Interest Fund
Tree Replacement Fund
Tri-Cities Chautauqua Fund
Tuesday Musica/Fund
United Way Fund for Human Services
Wayne VanAgtsmael Health Fund
Mary Vivian Fund for the Arts
Cornelia B. Wagner and Ruth B. Hoek Fund
Margaret Lynn Wilson Fund
Youth Fund of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation (CAYAC)
Zenko Family Fund

Dr. Elizabeth Curtis Dental Fund
for Children in Need
Elmer “Lou” Dense Fund
Elizabeth Davison Kammeraad Dobbie Fund for History
Alyce R. Erickson Fund (Fund for Excellence in Education)
Farmland Preservation Fund
Fluor Schwartz Memorial Fund

Jerovsek Family Fund
Friends of Kandu
L.E.T. Fund (Love, Enjoy, Teach Fund)
Craig Looman Fund
Fletcher Meekhof Food Fund
Michigan Health Endowment “Healthy Ottawa” Regranting Initiative Fund
William H. Young and Dorothy Young Mixer Fund

Marie and Lloyd O’Neal Fund for Music
North Bank Communities Fund
North Ottawa Area Community Coalition Fund
Reichardt Family Endowment
Helene D. and Bernath P. Sherwood, Jr. Fund
Mary Ann Sherwood Families and Children Field of Interest Fund
Tree Replacement Fund
Tri-Cities Chautauqua Fund
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Cornelia B. Wagner and Ruth B. Hoek Fund
Margaret Lynn Wilson Fund
Youth Fund of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation (CAYAC)
Zenko Family Fund

Anil K. & Shanthi R. Mandal Fund
Anil and Shanthi have been active and supportive of our community for many years. Anil currently serves on several committees at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, including the Grants & Programs Committee, Executive Committee, Governance Committee, and Board of Trustees.

With the establishment of their donor advised fund, Anil and Shanthi have an organized and tax-friendly way to contribute and recommend charitable gifts to the organizations and local projects they care about.

Musical Fountain Audio Project – Sound Investment
Can you imagine the Musical Fountain without music? Similar to the Save the Catwalk and Imagination Station “Reimagine Project” Fund, this project is part of a community campaign to replace the aging sound system and to make the necessary structural improvements to the housing for the audio components of the Musical Fountain.

To make a gift to this fund, please contact Chris Riker at 616-842-6378 or criker@ghacf.org.
Founded in 1981, Spring Meadow Nursery started by rooting cuttings of nursery plants. Over the years, it has grown to become the largest young plant provider of flowering shrubs in North America. Over 350 patented plants are sold as Proven Winners flowering shrubs in garden centers everywhere.

Along with the growth came the addition of staff and the recent establishment of a corporate advised fund. An advisory committee meets, discusses opportunities, and ultimately recommends grants for charitable purposes that positively impact lives in our local communities.

Corporate advised funds are donor advised funds that allow local businesses to have the flexibility to grant dollars when and where they wish, while we take care of the administrative and investment burden for them. We are grateful for partnerships like this that allow us to help area corporations simplify their community giving programs.

For more information about establishing a corporate advised fund, please contact Chris Riker at 616-842-6378 or criker@ghacf.org.
at a glance

A Matter of Trust
» We aim to be a highly trusted, respected, and knowledgeable community partner.

» We are an unbiased convener of people, ideas, and resources that positively impact our regional community.

Community Feedback
We surveyed donor advised fund holders, trustees, and select civic and organizational leaders and

» Nearly 90% of responders found us to be "very responsive."

» 98% of responders said they are "highly likely" or "possibly likely" to recommend us to a friend.

Total granted $1,512,427
through our responsive and impact-driven grantmaking

Arts, Culture & Diversity $12,000
Economic & Community Betterment $121,000
Education $319,927
Environment $138,000
Health & Human Services $911,000
Miscellaneous $10,500

A Proven History
» Our community’s endowment has grown from $55 million in 2011 to more than $129 million in total assets.

» Our funds have granted almost $23 million over the last five years.

» Our charitable portfolio has a 11.5% five-year investment return.

GHACF Historic Investment Returns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 year</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 year</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since Inception (1996)</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recognized in Our Field
» We received the Nonprofit Pinnacle of Partnership Award from the Greater Ottawa County United Way.
» We were a co-finalist in the 2018 MiBiz Best Managed Nonprofits Awards.
» We were a finalist for the Visionary Award from Lakeshore Advantage.

By the Numbers
» Ranked #22 in the nation for gifts per capita (2017 Columbus Survey).
» Ranked #7 in the state of Michigan for total assets (2017 CMF Databook).

That includes
$82,450 granted by the Youth Advisory Council
That's 15 grants
awarded by 20 youth philanthropists

Our scholarships made quite an impact as well
323 applications received
358 applications received
$413,125 awarded in scholarships
$495,000 awarded in scholarships
210 students received a scholarship
187 students received a scholarship
$1,950 average award package
$2,200 average award package

GHACF Assets Under Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
<th>Net Assets as of December 31, 2017</th>
<th>Grants Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$55M</td>
<td>$129,697,716</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$78M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$82M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$129M</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gifts In $5,414,576 to all GHACF funds
Grants Out $5,241,536 from all GHACF funds
a personal approach to giving

Donor and corporate advised funds allow an individual, family, or company to establish a charitable fund with a single gift. Donors may add to the fund with additional gifts at any time and may remain anonymous, if desired. Donors enjoy administrative convenience, cost savings, tax advantages, and gain access to the expertise of the community foundation’s staff. Once the fund is established, donors recommend grants and the foundation’s staff does all the work of administering the grants.

@HomeRealty Foundation
Abbit Management Corp Fund
C. Bennet Ainsworth Fund
Alt, Jonas, and Mercurio Family Fund
Amberger Family Fund
Coopersville Rotary Club Community Action Fund
Ryan & Karen Cotton Fund
Matilda and Harold Crane Donor Advised Fund
Kennard and Wendy Creason Family Fund
William and Mary Creason Fund
Howard and Wilma Draft Family Fund
Eagin Family Fund
Martha A. Erickson Fund
B. John and Jennifer Essex Family Fund
William J. Fettis & Dawn M. DuPont Family Fund
FISH Fund
Louis P. and Sharon F. Fracalossi Family Fund
Fleming and LaTorre Family Fund
Gage Family Fund
Gahsman Family Memorial Fund
Grandma Glo, TJ, Skylee & Cody Family Fund
Valerie Guttowsky and Craig Councilor Fund
Edward J. and Nancy D. Hanenburg Family Fund
Nancy Hanenburg Fund
Kenneth D. and Janet A. Harestad Family Fund
James and Catherine Haveman Family Foundation
Douglas and Sharlene Hekman Family Fund
Holtrop-Tubbergen-Holtrop Family Fund
Julia Houle Advised Fund
James and Debra Hoving Family Fund
Sandy Huber Fund
Richard G. & Patricia R. Huff Children's Support Fund
C. Bennet Ainsworth Fund
Ben Ainsworth established a donor advised fund this past year to assist him with giving to the local causes and charities that he cares about. Creating this fund will allow Ben to support charitable causes of personal interest and will leave the processing and paperwork to us.

Holly & Erick Johnson Family Fund
Holly and Erick have a long history of actively engaging in the community and generously supporting various philanthropic efforts. As natives of West Michigan, establishing this donor advised fund will foster family conversations about philanthropy and help them continue to support the local causes that they care about.

donor advised funds

Cynthia and Donald Anderson Fund
Len and Wanda Anderson Family Fund
Baas Family Fund
George M. Bailey Fund
Douglas and Katharine Baker Family Fund
Pearl Bandstra Fund
Ray and Sue Barrett Garden Fund
Paul C. and Carol C. Biedent Family Fund
Betten Preferred Auto Group Fund
Betten Baker Fund
BizStream Community Fund
Boer Family Fund
Dr. Fredrick B. Brown Fund
John G. and Claire E. Bryson Family Music Fund
Robert & Virginia Burnside Family Fund
CAPS Science Program
Carolyn Boersma Fund
Boezaart Family Fund
David C. and Gail L. Bos Family Fund
Mackenzie Boyd Fund
Barbara Boyer Fund
Scott and Jennifer Breen Family Foundation
Richard and Patricia Briegel Family Fund
Budd and Melinda Brink Family Fund
Fred C. Bruhn Donor Advised Fund
Brusveen Chiropractic Center Charitable Fund
Edward F. and Phyllis A. Bushouse Fund
Dan Blythsma Charitable Fund
Robert L. Bytwerk Family Fund
Kevin Carbary-Carol Alexander Fund
The Coopersville Robert J. and Betty L. Casemier Family Fund
The Grand Haven Robert J. and Betty L. Casemier Family Fund
Cather Family Fund
Denny and Grace Cherette Family Fund
Chris-Tina Fund
John and JoAnne Clickner Family Fund
Bob Constant Athletic Memorial Fund
Mike Cook Fund for Fun in Education
Coopersville Rotary Club Fund
Alex Crum Memorial Sports Fund
Scott E. DeBoer Memorial Fund
Howard and Louise Dekker Family Fund
Dale and Elizabeth Deppe Family Fund
Jeremy and Daniela Deppe Family Fund
Detter/Walcott Early Childhood Education Fund
Keith and Mary DeWitt Family Fund
Mark and Denise DeWys Family Fund
Ralph and Arlene DeYoung Fund
The Diva Fund
The Dornbush Family Fund
N. Kay Doss Memorial Fund
Howard and Wilma Draft Family Fund
Eagin Family Fund
Martha A. Erickson Fund
B. John and Jennifer Essex Family Fund
William J. Fettis & Dawn M. DuPont Family Fund
FISH Fund
Louis P. and Sharon F. Fracalossi Family Fund
Fleming and LaTorre Family Fund
Gage Family Fund
Gahsman Family Memorial Fund
Grandma Glo, TJ, Skylee & Cody Family Fund
Valerie Guttowsky and Craig Councilor Fund
Edward J. and Nancy D. Hanenburg Family Fund
Nancy Hanenburg Fund
Kenneth D. and Janet A. Harestad Family Fund
James and Catherine Haveman Family Foundation
Douglas and Sharlene Hekman Family Fund
Holtrop-Tubbergen-Holtrop Family Fund
Julia Houle Advised Fund
James and Debra Hoving Family Fund
Sandy Huber Fund
Richard G. & Patricia R. Huff Children's Support Fund

new fund

C. Bennet Ainsworth Fund

new fund

Holly & Erick Johnson Family Fund
North Ottawa Wellness Foundation

The North Ottawa Wellness Foundation began as a coalition of community leaders, brought together to bring awareness to the disconnect between our physical and emotional health, and further educate our leaders about the debilitating consequences of this disconnect to our long term health and well-being. By introducing these key leaders, who represent business, medical, philanthropic, and wellness sectors, to simple practices such as identifying the powerful effects of the stress response, taking a few deep breaths, and easing oneself into quality sleep, the coalition sought to align medical sciences and emotional strength to better shape our productivity, our outlook, our health, and our longevity.

In an effort to enable our busy community leaders to efficiently and effectively share the numerous activities, projects, and programs they subsequently designed to incorporate sustainable wellness and improve the well-being of those they serve, the North Ottawa Wellness Foundation was formed.
Organizational funds provide for-impact organizations income streams to support programs and operations. The foundation holds and invests the assets, providing responsible and professional fund management. Organizational funds can be a simple and effective way to create long-term financial sustainability.

American Red Cross
  Doris Ewing Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund Founding Fund Ottawa County Fund
  Janet C. Beukema Fund for Hospice
  Boomgaard Fund for Seniors

Martin-Beverley-Todd Bomers
  Fitness & Aquatic Center Fund

Martin-Beverley-Todd Bomers Memorial Band Fund

Borculo Christian School Education Foundation

Camp Bluebird
  Cynthia Collinge-Golab Volunteer Support Fund Endowment Fund Rosemary Konopa Cancer Retreat Program Fund

Camp Sunshine Endowed Fund

Center for Women in Transition Fund

Central Park Players Fund

Chester Township Recreation Fund

Children’s Advocacy Center Endowment Fund

C3 West Michigan’s Inclusive Spiritual Connection Designated Fund Endowment Fund Memorial Endowment Fund

Chris Christiansen Youth Scholarship Fund

Christian Haven Home Fund

City of Coopersville
  Coopersville Area Historical Society Funds Coopersville Roundabout Beautification Fund Michael’s Gift Recreation Fund

City of Grand Haven
  4th of July Fireworks Fund 7th Street Coast Guard Boat Fund Boardwalk Maintenance Fund Boardwalk 25th Anniversary Fund Catwalk Maintenance Fund Central Park Fountain Endowment Fund Coal Tippie Restoration Fund Duncan Park Fund Grand Haven Lighthouse Endowed Fund Grand Haven Lighthouse Community Service Fund Grand Haven Waterfront Stadium Fund Imagination Station Maintenance Fund Imagination Station “Reimagine Project” Fund

Memorial Airport Fund Musical Fountain Fund Pier Safety Fund Public Artifact Fund Save the Catwalk Fund Splash Pad Fund

Coast Guard Festival Fireworks Forever Fund Fireworks Fund College Access Fund

Thomas N. Cooper Designated Fund

Coopersville Area District Library Endowment Fund Friends of the Coopersville Library Fund Westrate Children's Library Endowment Fund

Coopersville Area Public Schools Athletic Fund Education Fund Performing Arts Center Designated Fund

Coopersville Cares Capital Campaign Fund Endowment Fund

Coopersville Farm Museum Coopersville FFA Education and Leadership Fund

Coopersville Old Kids Fund

Coopersville Memorial Fund Doug Corradini Spirit of #40 Fund Covenant Life Church Endowed Fund Crockery Township Fire Department Endowment Fund Alex Crum Memorial Fund

Russell H. and Beatrice A. Dornbos Fund Mark and Lauri Douglas Community Arts Fund

Eastern Ottawa County Silent Observer Family LIFE Center of West Michigan Fund

First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven Funds

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven Alpha Fund Karin Fowler Pastoral Care Training Fund Omega Fund

Scott Fredricks Fund E. Selina Gerig and John J. Gerig Fund

Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails Endowment Fund

Grand Haven Area Public Schools Patrick Byrne Memorial Fund High School Choir Endowment Fund Ronny Kernink Pay to Play Fund Science Olympiad Programs Fund Jan Rempinski Memorial Scholarship Fund Eugene “Gene” Rothi Memorial Athletic Endowment Fund Mental Health Fund

Grand Haven Christian School Tuition Assistance Fund Endowed Technology Fund Richard and Rosemary Geertson Fund

Grand Haven Rotary STRIVE Designated Endowment Fund

Grand Haven Schools Foundation Endowment Fund

Grand Haven Class of 1953 Fund

Greater Ottawa County United Way Homelessness Prevention Endowment Fund Volunteer Center Funds

Norma V. Green Memorial Art Award Fund

Carol and Winfield Hall Fund for Music

Harbor Humane Society Funds

Coral and Peter Henenberg Memorial Fund

Chuck and Olga Hennens Fund

Olga A. and Charles J. Hennens Family Fund

Hill Family Children’s Christian Education Fund

Housing Next Fund

Hugs and Kisses Fund

Edward and Florence Huizenga Fund

International Aid Endowment Fund

Kitchel-Lindquist-Harter Dunes Endowment Fund

Kitchel-Lindquist-Harter Dunes Fund

Jocki Klikschian Fund

Lakeshore Baptist Church Fund

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance Fund

Keith & Bernice Lamkin Fund

Lamont Christian School Foundation Fund

Land Conservancy of West Michigan Fund

Casey Lemieux Fund

Norm and Meg Lemieux Designated Fund

The Robert & Karen Lemmen Children’s Fund

Love J. P. Fund

Kenneth Ranta Fund for The Little Red House

Loutit District Library Endowment Fund

Love in Action Fund

Paul & Minnie Luytjes Fund for Second Reformed Church

Michigan Aviation Education Foundation/Fontana Fund

Michigan Aviation Education Fund

Muskegon Museum of Art Endowment Fund

NED Forum Fund

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

North Ottawa Community Hospital

Mary’s Wish Hospice Fund

Dr. Larry Poel Sports Medicine Fund

Community Health Systems

Samuel L. Westerman Sunshine Fund

North Ottawa County Council on Aging Funds
Imagination Station “Reimagine Project” Fund

The Reimagine Project is a community initiative to build a play-space for the greater Grand Haven community that meets the needs of a new generation of kids, is fully accessibility, and is built with the newest durable products. This play-space will replace the current Imagination Station in Mulligan’s Hollow, which was built 28 years ago.

Just like in 1990, the project is following a similar design, fund, and build process. Over 100 local children and STEM teachers worked together for three days in the fall of 2017 to design the play-space to be fully accessible. The project’s fundraising goal was $500,000. It was raised within five months through the generous support of hundreds of community donors and an MEDC Matching Grant.

The play-space will be built October 9th -14th, 2018 by over 1,500 community volunteers.

“What truly makes this project unique is the grassroots giving, local volunteers, and the passion the Reimagine Team has brought to creating a play-space for all. Kids of all skill-sets will play with each other in a safe and inclusive design.” — Chris Streng, Chair
securing the future for our youth

Scholarship funds make educational dreams come true. When you invest in the next generation with post-secondary education assistance through scholarships, you’re building a foundation for a brighter tomorrow.

Allendale Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Award
Allendale Community Foundation Scholarship
Jack Feldt Ambucs Memorial Scholarship Fund
Bailey Scholarship Fund
Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ray & Sue Barrett Scholarship Fund
Charles (Charlie) A. Bassett Endowed Scholarship Fund

Ronald C. Bush Memorial Scholarship Fund
David & Mary Jo Busman Family Scholarship Fund
Careerline Tech Center Paraprofessional Scholarship Fund
Coopersville Scholarship Fund
Staci Cheadle Memorial Scholarship Fund
Geri Coccodrilli Culinary Scholarship Fund
Craig Councilor & Valerie Guttowsky Scholarship Fund

Kevin Ernst Memorial Scholarship Fund
Wallace K. & Jane Ewing Scholarship Fund
Bertha M. Fase Memorial Scholarship Fund
Scott A. Flahive Memorial Scholarship Fund
Floto-Peel Family Fund
Kenneth & Janis Formsma ESL Scholarship
John L. & Victory E. Frantz Scholarship Fund
Fuggazzotto Scholarship Fund for Visual Arts Students
Wilma Jean Fynewever Nursing Scholarship Fund
Gauthier Family Fund
Tom Gifford Scholarship Fund
Grace Thatcher Scholarship
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Scholarship Fund
Grand Haven Offshore Challenge Scholarship
Mitz Hammond Hessmer Scholarship
Barbara and Nicole Heacox Foreign Study & Travel Fund
S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mandy’s Promise Scholarship Fund
Robert and Patricia Schmidt created this scholarship for students attending public colleges and universities in Michigan and pursuing a course of study in veterinary medicine. With an affinity for our furry friends, Robert and Patricia look forward to this scholarship helping to produce future Doctors of Veterinary Medicine and Vet Technicians to care for animals.

Runschke Family Scholarship Fund
Gernot and Anne Runschke took advantage of a tax-free distribution from their IRA to establish this new scholarship fund intended to assist students who are residents of Northwest Ottawa County and enrolled in a vocational or trades program. Recognizing the importance of a high-quality and specialized education, the Runschke family is excited about helping positively impact students, our local workforce, and the community.

* The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

Spartanwill Scholarship Fund
Jim Schmidt was the first college graduate of his parents’ extended families. He worked for seven years at Meijer to pay for his Michigan State University education, and after completing his education, was recruited by Fluor Corporation, an international oil and gas EPC services contractor. Jim steadily progressed to Senior Vice President and company Officer during his 37-year Fluor career. As a philanthropist, Jim has generously given back to many worthy causes and organizations, including his alma mater and the GHACF. The Spartanwill Scholarship Fund will provide MSU scholarships for hometown high school graduates, helping to turn a college degree from a dream into a reality.
Loutit Scholarship Fund

Recognizing the importance of helping students realize their full potential and supporting local educational institutions, the Loutit Foundation established the Loutit Scholarship Fund this year. This scholarship is intended for students residing in northern Ottawa County who are planning to attend one of the colleges affiliated with the Michigan Colleges Alliance.

Scholarship Committee

Our scholarship committee is made up of board members and representatives from the community. Together they make the critical decisions to help area students attain a post-secondary education.

Sandy Huber, Chair  Melinda Brink  Debra Mann
Angie Perdtis  Brian Sabo  Susan Tater
Pat VerDuin  Monica Verplank

2017-18 Scholarship Committee

Kim McLaughlin, Holly Cole, Susan Tater, Angie Perdtis, Holly Johnson, Melinda Brink, Monica Verplank, Kim Zevalkink, Brian Sabo, Debra Mann, Sandy Huber, Chair, Lauren Grevel, Field Reichardt
Getting into your dream school is tough enough without worrying about how to pay for it. Thanks to our generous donors, 187 students received a combined $495,000 in scholarships in 2018. Donors and recipients gathered for an event in July, where students thanked donors and shared their plans for the future.

We're constantly exploring new ways to support first-generation college students and students pursuing post-secondary education in critical career fields in our region.

Where are they headed?

- **Michigan Colleges**
  - 2017: 88%
  - 2018: 87%
- **Out of State**
  - 2017: 12%
  - 2018: 13%
- **Public Universities**
  - 2017: 69%
  - 2018: 89%
- **Private College**
  - 2017: 31%
  - 2018: 11%

Who are our recipients?

- **High School Seniors**
  - 2017: 73%
  - 2018: 71%
- **Currently in College**
  - 2017: 27%
  - 2018: 29%
Effective stewardship of philanthropic assets is paramount to building permanent charitable funds that strengthen our community.

### Assets

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<th>Asset</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Notes Receivable</td>
<td>270,166</td>
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<td>Bequests Receivable</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>1,449,957</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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### Liabilities

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<td>Grants Payable</td>
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<td>Charitable Gift Annuities Payable</td>
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<td>Funds Held as Agency</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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### Net Assets

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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After a thorough RFP process, the GHACF has established a relationship with Northern Trust to serve as an investment advisor and co-fiduciary of our growing assets.

### 2018-19 Investment Committee

- **Tammy Bailey, CFP, CIMA, Chair** President, Buy Right Packaging Supply
- **Randy Hansen** President, Centennial Securities
- **Barb VanHeest** Relationship Manager, Chase Business Banking
- **Nelson Jacobson** Chairman, CEO & President, JSJ Corporation
- **Nick Grinzinger** Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
- **Curt Walburg** CPA, Walburg+Associates, P.C.
2018-19 Advisory Board
Kelly Post (CAYAC Advisor), Sue Schmidt, Cori Conran, Jeff Johnson (Chair), Jen Breen (Vice-Chair), Leo Raap (Treasurer), Jose C. Gomez, Kari Fuller (Director). Not pictured: Kelley Monterusso (Secretary), Marty Alexander, Cheryl Annen, Ira Engeltjes.

The Robert & Karen Lemmen Children’s Fund
The Lemmen family has grown up giving back. As a young family, the people of Coopersville supported their family and business, so they shopped at the local stores to support those families in return. In the process, they have seen Coopersville come together, grow and bond as a community, and become a great place to live.

Now they are continuing this tradition with their children and grandchildren. The entire Lemmen family sat down together at the family dining room table and talked about their options, and they chose to give back to Coopersville by contributing their distribution to a designated organization fund.

“It is important to teach kids to have philanthropy in their hearts. We need to learn to give and share our blessings and we want to share our hope and love with these kids to support the people of the community.”
– Karen Lemmen

Assets: $6,009,873
80 funds
Total granted: $494,099
Granted by CAYAC: $15,688

Competitive Grants
Health & Human Services
$8,000
Arts & Culture
$3,570
Economic & Community Betterment
$1,730
Education
$5,000
Total
$18,300
2018-19 Advisory Board
Gwen VanTimmeren, Candy Kraker (Vice-Chair), Ben Meyer, Rebecca Casler, Jim Beelen, Rob Bristow (Chair), Ray Statema. Not pictured: Janessa Smit (Secretary), Kristi Roelofs (Treasurer), Kellen Brusveen, Nick Grinzinger.

The Allendale Trail – Phase 1 Fund

This community service fund supports the construction and enhancements of phase one of the Allendale portion of the Grand River Greenway, a non-motorized path located in Allendale Township. The area includes the section of 60th Avenue from Lincoln Ave. south to where the sidewalk begins north of Lake Michigan Drive.

The goal is to raise $100,000 over the next three years to demonstrate community support and come alongside the Grand River Greenway project in a very proactive way. Donations and pledges from local business owners have already come in, and the total estimated cost for that section of trail is $850,000.
We Value

» **Empathy:** to understand the needs of the youth in our community

» **Integrity:** to make equitable decisions for the youth of our community

» **Collaboration:** using innovation and teamwork

» **Open-mindedness:** through a passionate and diverse group of youth representatives

**Vision:** A community where all youth have the resources and opportunities available that allow them to succeed.

**Mission:** We aim to set an example for future generations by giving of time, talent, and treasure to actively impact the lives of youth in Northwest Ottawa County.
Youth empowerment is the process in which young people are given the tools to make decisions and create change; not only impacting their own lives but the lives of their peers as well. Often times we hear from youth that their voices are not being heard. Members of our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) recognize this and have started on a path to create avenues and spaces where youth can be heard. As they look to the impact of their grantmaking and programming, they want to ensure that whatever they are doing is in some way, shape, or form empowering youth.

Most recently, our YAC developed and launched the Spark Tank Initiative—their first step in providing opportunities and spaces to empower youth in our community—for students in K-12 in both school districts.

Throughout the submission process, and while touring the schools to hear student presentations, members often heard how empowering it was to give students a voice. We heard teachers say, “remember when you said adults don’t listen to you, they’re listening now,” and emphasizing the need to provide safe environments for our students to discuss and reflect what they could do to inspire others to make their school a better place.

“The Spark Tank program challenged students to take a look at how to make their school a better place. While it started with a simple question, we could quickly see that it became much more than that to the students. The process itself inspired the students to take action and look at things critically.

The way students took on the challenge truly exceeded YAC’s expectations. It was profound to see the initiative have such a positive impact. After seeing the presentations, you could tell it really was about so much more than improving the school itself. This also inspired youth and created a better community among the students themselves. I am so excited to see Spark Tank grow next year and into the future. This year just showed the immense promise it holds.”
—Chloe Weigel, GHHS senior

“The Spark Tank initiative was the first project we have designed to help empower youth in our community. The local students were thrilled to have their voices heard on issues they saw in their schools. Mixing this with the positive feedback from the teachers, we have strengthened our resolve to continue providing youth with a chance to be heard in our community.”
—Charlie Parker, SLHS senior
leaving a legacy

We celebrated our **Legacy Society** this year with a party at the Spring Lake Country Club, sponsored by many generous Legacy Society members. It was an evening of music, laughter, and reconnecting with friends—all of whom we thanked for their philanthro-bee!

Thank you to those who have chosen the community foundation as a way to improve and enhance this community for future generations through a planned gift. A planned gift to the community foundation enables you to support the causes you love... forever.

"The bee is responsible for much of the food we eat, and it is a scientific fact that we could not survive without the constant work of bees. That makes our gift of honey very fitting, because the GHACF simply could not exist without all of you." – Holly Johnson
Legacies Remembered: Martin, Beverly and Todd Bomers • John Carlyle • Janice Carducci • Ken Duthler • Richard Peel • Bill and Nanci Tysman
a time of transition

Goodbyes are never easy, and this one comes with mixed emotions for sure. It has been my highest privilege to lead the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to help support our amazing community.

There are so many things that make me proud when I look back on my time here. Our committed board, talented team, regional impact, productive partnerships, meaningful collaborations, and so much more. This organization is far more than our impressive numbers—we are changing lives because of the generosity of so many. The IRS classifies us as a nonprofit organization, but we prefer to flip that and self-identify as a for-impact community organization.

As I took a final look out my window, I was delighted to see people enjoying the new Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium. What an honor to be at the table that envisioned this new community space, and an even higher honor to lead the community foundation through our $3 million investment.

A simple quote from Winnie the Pooh has resonated with me: “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” That is exactly how I feel—how fortunate I have been to have had eleven years with an organization that I love so dearly.

I leave you with a few parting words:

Be grateful. Be impactful. Be mindful.

Onward and upward—the best is yet to come!
Living an impactful life is more than just words in an annual report. At the GHACF, we take giving back seriously. Here’s how:

To learn more about our team, visit GHACF.org/Meet-The-Team.

Not pictured: Our newest team member, Philanthropic Services Associate Adrienne Whisman

Grand Haven Area community foundation

Re-Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations
We're on a mission to talk less about being a NON profit and more about being a FOR impact community organization.

We invite you to join us.

ghacf.org