

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,641 IN COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The Board of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation is pleased to announce they've awarded \$10,641 in grants to support the Coopersville community, including two grants that aim to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.

The Coopersville Farm Museum received a \$1,500 grant for The Welcome Project, which plans to add an automatic door to the front entrance to make the museum barrier-free. Approximately 75% of those visiting the museum are seniors, and many who visit have difficulty getting into the building. This door will make entering the Farm Museum easier for people with disabilities, parents with strollers, and others who need a barrier-free entrance.

The Western Michigan Society for Industrial Heritage (WMSIH) received a \$2,400 grant to convert one of the Coopersville / Marne Railroad railcars to be handicap accessible. Every year, the Coopersville / Marne Railroad has to turn away customers who are in a wheelchair as they do not have ADA acceptable pieces of safety equipment. The grant will help the WMSIH purchase the ADA-acceptable pieces of equipment for wheelchairs to be secured while the train is in motion, including handicap tracks and three sets of wheelchair tie-downs.

Additional grants include:

- **Coopersville Area Arts Council** – \$2,000 for the Lion King Jr. Summer Camp Experience, a two-week summer camp for middle-school students. The camp provides focused instruction in all aspects of performance on stage, including acting fundamentals, singing, dancing, memorizing lines, team work, and creating and fulfilling goals.

- **Coopersville Area Public Schools** – \$1,900 for Victory Day, a one-day, inclusive sporting experience for people with limited abilities to learn fall sports from volunteers from CHS student volunteers who participate in athletics and the band. The program allows them to have an opportunity to explore different sports, learn new skills like playing percussion, and scoring a 40-yard touchdown.
- **The City of Coopersville – Recreation Department** – \$1,200 for portable soccer scoreboards and youth football field markers. The grant will offset the cost of purchasing two scoreboards for the soccer fields, located at CAPS Middle School, for U11 and above participants. While Coopersville residents will be the primary beneficiaries, surrounding participating sites of the Great lakes Co-Ed Soccer League (Ravenna, Oakridge, Mona Shores, Ludington, Muskegon, North Muskegon, Grand Haven, Fruitport, Manistee) will also benefit from the scoreboards as opponents.
- **Coopersville Area Public Schools** – \$1,641 for purchasing flowering trees, shrubs, and flowers in the Pollinator Garden at the Coopersville Community Trails Park on the CAPS campus. The garden will include native Michigan plants for year-round color and to attract butterflies and other pollinators, while also becoming an outdoor classroom to provide environmental education opportunities. Students, teachers, and other visitors can study and work in the garden and learn about nature.

The next grant deadline for area nonprofits is September 27, 2019. The grant applications can be found at www.ghacf.org/Coopersville/grants.

The Coopersville Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving the Coopersville community since 1993. It encourages philanthropy by individuals, families, companies and organizations, and serves as a steward of charitable funds and legacies. For more information, or to give a tax-deductible gift to the Community Action Fund at the Foundation, visit coopersville-cf.org or follow us

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/coopersvilleareacommunityfoundation. The Coopersville Area Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

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