

## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:** Holly Cole, Vice President of Grants & Program  
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, 616-842-6378

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 14, 2019**

### **Community Foundation Grants \$12,150 to Programs Supporting the North Bank**

The North Bank Communities Fund (NBCF), a component of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF), recently announced five grant awards, totaling \$12,150, in support of the North Bank region of West Michigan. This includes a \$2,000 grant to the Village of Spring Lake to further expand the Victoria Verplank Tree Nursery.

This grant from the NBCF will add inventory to the nursery stock, which is located at the Spring Lake Country Club (SLCC). The Village's tree nursery provides trees to replace and restore the tree canopy in the Village in a methodical and sustainable manner. The Village Department of Public Works tends to the trees.

*Of note: Thursday, May 16 is National Love a Tree Day.*

Other grants awarded:

**The City of Ferrysburg** – \$3,000 for “Fire Barn Park Playground,” a new playground at Fire Barn Park in Ferrysburg. The new park equipment will be universally accessible to serve the needs of all, and be firefighter themed to reflect the name of the park and adjacent fire department. The new playground will be constructed by volunteers from the community.

**Spring Lake Public Schools** – \$1,900 for “Gone Boarding,” a program that provides Spring Lake High School students with a variety of problem-solving and career-related skills through a hands-on manufacturing and design course. The Northwest Ottawa County community has an increasing need for students with a variety of manufacturing soft skills and this program supports students in their personal career explorations.

**Spring Lake Public Schools** – \$3,000 for “Units of Study in Phonics,” a program being piloted by the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers at Holmes and Jeffers elementary schools. The program helps educators provide a strong, research-based sequence of instruction in phonics, a vital part of every child's development of literacy skills.

**West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics** – \$2,250 for “Native Planting and Outdoor Classroom,” a three-part outdoor enhancement project that will provide an outdoor classroom setting with access to a native prairie garden, a native rain garden, and an outdoor watershed area. This project will provide WMAAA students with an opportunity to learn, firsthand, about scientific fields like earth science, biology, and ecology, along with information about the Northwest Ottawa County watershed. It will also provide a reflection area for reading, mindfulness and art projects.

For more information about grants, please contact Holly Cole, Vice President of Grants & Program, at [hcole@ghac.org](mailto:hcole@ghac.org).

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving the Northwest Ottawa County community since 1971. GHACF is regularly recognized as a top 100 Community Foundation in the nation and is the 8th 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](http://ghacf.org).

-end-