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

Andy & Joyce Cawthon Greatest Needs Fund
Coopersville Community Action Fund
David and Carol DeBlay F Han
Howard Dykhouse 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

Henry Neitring Fund
Judge Jacob and Betty Ponstein Fund
Nancy Dombros Rhem Fund
Eugene “Gene” Rothi Community Fund
Fred Riplo Family Fund
B. P. Sherwood, Jr. Trust Fund
Dr. Harold Sheridan Fund

Lynne Sherwood Fund
Marion A. Sherwood Family Fund
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Greatest Needs Fund
Ann Tabor Greatest Needs Funds

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

Art in the Park Fund
The Village of Spring Lake established a community service fund to support efforts to beautify public spaces and introduce art to our community.

The first two Art in the Park projects were murals along Lakeside Trail, a linear park that serves as a multi-user trail connecting Spring Lake with our neighboring communities. The next effort will be a sculpture commission to honor Gary and Victoria Verplank, former Village residents who contributed so much to our community.

Andy & Joyce Cawthon Greatest Needs Fund
We opened a fund with the GHACF because the concept of a fund dedicated to local issues and needs matched our intentions. We are fortunate to have been successful in our careers and investments and want to help make our world, and specifically our community, a better place for all.

Placing these funds in a greatest needs fund with the community foundation allows our funds to be aggregated with others’ to have the greatest impact on a pressing community need which may change from year to year. A win for everyone!

Gracious Grounds Endowment Fund
Gracious Grounds is a faith-based organization that provides housing opportunities to people with unique abilities. As an organization, they look beyond limitations to create an environment that is affordable, friendly, and resident-centered.

“We opened our organizational fund so people could give to our endowment easily,” said Sandy Baker, Executive Director of Gracious Grounds. “We appreciate the investment opportunity that the foundation affords. This endowment fund will sustain our organization for a long time.”
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, and 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.

Kyle and Samantha Verplank Family Fund
Kyle and Samantha have been actively engaged in and supportive of our community for many years. With the establishment of their donor advised fund, Kyle and Samantha have an organized and tax-friendly way to contribute and recommend charitable gifts to the organizations and projects they care about.

Dr. Alan D. Steinman Donor Advised Fund for the Environment
Alan Steinman was raised by his parents and faith to give back to the community. He chose to open a donor advised fund with the GHACF because he wants to help preserve and enhance the environmental assets of the region where he lives. He has a similar fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County (CFMC) and is hopeful that by leveraging these two funds, there can be greater coordination and cooperation between GHACF and CFMC around issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries.

Anthony & Monica Verplank Thriving Communities Fund
Tony and Monica opened this donor advised fund to support organizations creating opportunities for others to thrive. Not just manage, but truly thrive. Their dedication to assisting community organizations who help lift up and empower those in need was the inspiration for this fund.
James A. Doss
Family Fund

A successful businessman and generous philanthropist, Jim opened this donor advised fund for two primary reasons.

First, he established this local fund to help assist him and his family to efficiently and effectively give to worthy charitable causes and organizations.

Second, he wanted to continue modeling philanthropy and fostering family conversations about giving back and positively impacting lives in our region.
Recently, both Light Corp. and Pliant Plastics moved assets to corporate advised funds here at the foundation.

Light Corp., a world-class specialty lighting designer and manufacturer, is a progressive organization providing cost-effective lighting that improves productivity, health, and energy-efficiency in modern-day workspaces. Light Corp. products are designed, manufactured, and assembled in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Pliant Plastics Corporation has been custom injection molding engineering-grade thermoplastic resins for over 50 years. Founded in 1967, Pliant Plastics serves several commercial segments including automotive, furniture, medical, recreation, and packaging.

While these companies will continue to have the flexibility to grant dollars when and where they wish, the GHACF will take care of the administrative and investment responsibilities for each of them. We are honored to hold these funds and grateful for partnerships like these that allow us to play a small role in helping area corporations simplify their community giving programs.

**building a legacy**

**spotlight: corporate advised funds**

The fourth generation of his family to live and work in Northwest Ottawa County, Gary graduated from Grand Haven High School before attending the University of Michigan.

His professional accomplishments stretched far and wide, but his local impact was significant and made possible in part by his involvement with numerous businesses including Shape Corp., Finish Corp., Light Corp., Track Corp., BR Metals, Pliant Plastics Corporation, BioSolutions, NetShape, and Magnode. Gary firmly believed that business exists for the betterment of community.

Gary never missed an opportunity to give back to the community that he loved. He was involved in many charitable, volunteer, and philanthropic organizations, including serving on the Board of Trustees for the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation from 1986-1992.

It’s been said by many that our community would look very different today if it weren’t for the active involvement and generous support of Gary and Victoria Verplank.

Gary will forever be missed, but we are incredibly grateful for the impact that he made.
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
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
Flor Schwartz Memorial 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
Jerovsek Family Fund
Friends of Kandu
L.E.T. Fund (Love, Enjoy, Teach Fund)
Craig Looman Fund
Fletcher Meekhof Food Fund

Mary Ann Sherwood Families and Children Field of Interest Fund
Tree Replacement Fund
Tri-Cities Chautauqua Fund
Tuesday Musicale Fund
United Way Fund for Human Services
Wayne VanAgtmael Health Fund

field of interest funds

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 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

Waanders Family Fund

John Waanders, along with his children, established the Waanders Family Fund after the passing of his wife, Judith Nell Waanders. Judy was a beloved daughter, sister, friend, spouse, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, and career educator. Many also knew her through The Bookman, the bookstore on Washington Avenue in Centertown, Grand Haven.

This new donor advised fund is a beautiful tribute to Judith and will enable the Waanders family to support local causes of personal interest.

St. John’s Episcopal Church Altar Guild Fund

The parish of St. John’s Episcopal Church was founded in 1866, one year after the conclusion of the American Civil War. The St. John’s Episcopal Church Altar Guild Fund is an endowed organizational fund that was established to specifically support the Altar Guild at the church located in Grand Haven.
helping organizations thrive

Organizational funds provide income streams to support programs and operations at for-impact organizations. 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.

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Allendale Christian School Endowment Fund
Allendale Lifelong Learners Fund
Allendale Historical Society Endowment Fund
Allendale Public School Foundation
Allendale Township Library Endowment Fund

Coopersville Area Public Schools
Athletic Fund
Education Fund
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Grand Haven Public Safety Beach Safety Fund

In the last two years alone, hundreds of people have tragically drowned in the Great Lakes. After the drownings that occurred in 2018 by the Grand Haven lakeshore, individuals and organizations came together determined to try to minimize the number of future fatalities. The Rotary Club of Grand Haven, City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Department of Public Safety, and State of Michigan partnered to raise the necessary capital and to develop and implement new safety tools on the Grand Haven Beach.

Among the additions made to the beach are numbered signs to help direct first responders, colored water-condition flags, additional rope for life rings, and a beach information broadcasting system.

If you’d like to make a donation to the Grand Haven Public Safety Beach Safety Fund, or any of our other funds, visit our website at ghacf.org/donate or send a check to our office at 1 South Harbor Drive.
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
**Athena Scholarship Fund**
Bailey Scholarship Fund
Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ray & Sue Barrett Scholarship Fund

Jack & Libby Bush 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

Erickson Education 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
Fugazzotto Scholarship Fund for Visual Arts Students
Wilma Jean Fyne newers Nursing Scholarship Fund
Gauthier Family Fund
Tom Gifford Scholarship Fund
Grace Thatcher Scholarship Fund
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Scholarship Fund
Grand Haven Offshore Challenge Scholarship
Mitz Hammond Hessmer Scholarship Fund
Barbara and Nicole Heaco new Study & Travel Fund

Frances Claire Reinecke Scholarship Fund

The inspiration to give back to the community comes directly from family members who have demonstrated such generosity over the years. Now as grandchildren and great-grandchildren, it is our turn to carry forward the passion for helping others.

Our family chose to open a scholarship fund with the GHACF to honor the legacy left behind by our grandmother, Frances Reinecke, who committed a lifetime to her family, education, and community.

Our goal for this scholarship is quite intentional. We want the funds to directly impact a college-going student who has overcome obstacles, or perhaps is a first-generation college student. Our grandmother was relentless in her compassion toward all people, and she certainly had a special place in her heart for those whose life hasn’t always come easy.

Mary E. McGinnis Social Work Scholarship Fund

Mary E. McGinnis grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois and the family moved to Bingham Farms, MI after she graduated from high school. She attended Marygrove College and the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor’s degree and completed post-graduate studies in social work.

Mary spent her entire career at Catholic Social Services of Wayne and Oakland County, MI, finding exceptional families for hundreds of wonderful children. She retired in 1996 in Ann Arbor and moved to Grand Haven in 2014 to be closer to family.

When Mary passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, her four children opened this scholarship fund to forever honor her and her love of giving back. An annual scholarship will be awarded to a Northwest Ottawa County applicant with at least junior status at any Michigan public or private college/university with a declared major in social work.
Athena Scholarship Fund

The Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship Fund was created in collaboration with The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake Ferrysburg, Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce, and the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce to assist women in reaching their full potential through financial support for training programs and education.

Female applicants 30 years or older who live or work in Ottawa, Allegan, or Muskegon County may apply. Other criteria the applicant must meet includes completion of one year of higher education, plans to continue her education at a West Michigan area accredited 4-year, 2-year, or technical or vocational program, and have limited financial resources. Applicants must also demonstrate a commitment to a professional, business, or entrepreneurial career.