

**For Immediate Release**

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**Increase in Need Drives Extension and Increase in Restoring Hope Challenge Match**

*The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is increasing the initial fundraising goal and extending the deadline to continue aiding community relief and recovery in response to COVID-19.*

Grand Haven, Mich. – In just fifteen days, more than 190 individuals and organizations came together to contribute to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) \$150,000 Restoring Hope Challenge Match, which is raising money for the Community Relief & Recovery Fund. In addition to individuals and organizations, the Loutit Foundation gave a generous grant to help cross the finish line.

The fund was established to respond to the short and long-term impact that COVID-19 will have on individuals, families, and for-impact partners within Northern Ottawa County. “The name ‘Community Relief and Recovery’ was selected with great intention and purpose,” said Holly Cole, Vice President of Grants and Program. “As our community begins to shift from an emergency, immediate response we are anxious to provide our for-impact partners a sense of relief as we work together to begin the process of recovery.”

Cole added, “Through a series of conversations we continue to learn about the strain caused by the demands of COVID-19 on our local, for-impact sector. Some of our partners were forced to close their doors to clients, including vulnerable seniors and children, in an effort to maintain

safety, while others had to quickly adapt to the immediately heightened need of food security, safe and secure housing, and access to physical and mental health care.” Nearly all annual fundraising events, which provide the critically important capital necessary for organizations to effectively fulfill their missions, were canceled.

In response to this need, the GHACF is offering another \$150,000 toward the Restoring Hope Challenge Match to raise money for the Community Relief & Recovery Fund. In the first round, 100% of the match portion came from the foundation, but this time \$30,000 is from the Tri-Cities Women Who Care, an alliance of women whose purpose is to help charitable organizations in the Tri-Cities area by streamlining fundraising. Since its inception in September of 2010, the group has awarded over \$1,100,000 to local organizations.

“We’re grateful to everyone who’s given, and now we’re asking the entire community to help,” said Chris Riker, Vice President of Advancement and Donor Services at the GHACF. “We’re matching all donations, which means \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200, and so on. Every gift makes a difference.”

Grants will be awarded to support core operations in an effort to allow the organization to fully support Northern Ottawa County communities. Priority will be granted to organizations serving individuals, families, and/or communities most impacted by COVID-19. Areas of focus include accessible nutrition, access to arts and culture, education, frontline fatigue, physical and mental health, safe housing, and vulnerable communities such as seniors and youth.

The first round of grants awarded \$198,044 to six organizations:

- Arbor Circle – \$20,000 to support stabilization programming for families and caregivers, specifically The Great Start to Quality Western Resource Center and Arbor Circle foster families.
- Children’s Advocacy Center – \$18,500 to create new and accessible resources for teachers, parents and children to continue body safety programming and education within the limitations created by COVID-19.

- ODC Network – \$50,000 towards the support of a partnership with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District to help students, staff and administration safely return to school this fall by utilizing outdoor learning space and educational techniques to provide safe, relevant, and engaging learning experiences.
- Spring Lake Public Schools – \$67,492 to secure one, new full-time social worker at Jeffers Elementary School and further support the district’s strategic development of Social Emotional Learning.
- Tri-Cities Family YMCA – \$25,000 to ensure summer programming operations, including children’s day camps which provide a safe and meaningful space for local youth.
- Little Red House – \$17,052 to develop, manufacture, and install unique table dividers to provide adult day care clients a healthy and safe environment for re-engagement.

As Northern Ottawa County continues to progress in reopening, it is imperative that local organizations are provided the support necessary to not only adapt their operations, but sustain their missions, in an effort to fully care for our neighbors in this continued time of need. At the time of this press release, the foundation has an additional \$350,000 in grant requests from 19 community organizations. The applications will be reviewed as part of two additional grant rounds for the Community Relief and Recovery Fund in July and August.

“We’re extremely grateful for the generosity this community has continued to demonstrate and ask that they don’t stop now,” said Riker.

If you would like to help, you can make an online donation to the Community Relief & Recovery Fund on the GHACF’s [Donation Page](#). You may also mail a check (please include CR&R Fund in the memo line) to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation at One South Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

The goal is to fully realize this match by July 31.

Promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EqsOFpnSnc>

#### ABOUT THE GHACF

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. The Allendale Community Foundation and Coopersville Area Community Foundation are affiliates of the GHACF. For more information visit [ghacf.org](http://ghacf.org).

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Attached: Restoring Hope logo\_0620.jpg