

**For Immediate Release**

**August 4, 2020**

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**Community Rallies Behind COVID-19 Relief to Help Community Foundation Meet Fundraising Goal**

*Community support helps the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation exceed its \$600,000 fundraising goal, allowing the foundation to continue aiding community relief and recovery in response to COVID-19.*

Grand Haven, Mich. – In less than seven weeks, more than 525 individuals, organizations, and funds came together to contribute more than \$300,000 to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF)—for a total of more than \$600,000—for the Restoring Hope Challenge Match, which raised money for the Community Relief & Recovery Fund.

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.

“Initially, we set an informed goal of raising \$150,000 and matching dollar for dollar. Based on the needs of our for-impact partners and the generous outpouring of support, we extended and doubled the campaign” said Chris Riker, Vice President of Advancement and Donor Services at the GHACF.

As of the July 31<sup>st</sup> campaign deadline, more than \$650,000 had been contributed and matched.

Grants have been awarded to support core operations in an effort to allow the organization to fully support Northern Ottawa County communities. Priority was 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 and second grant rounds have already awarded more than \$250,000 to area for-impact partners. “While more information about the grant making and impact will be shared soon, it’s important for us to celebrate this milestone and to applaud how this community has rallied to care for one another,” added Riker. “The level of support has been inspiring, and we are extremely grateful to all those who contributed.”

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.

“As the situation continues to evolve, our for-impact partners are learning more about their needs and sharing those needs with us.” said Riker.

If you would like to help, you may still 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.

#### 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, Chris Riker headshot, GHACF logo