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**Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Announces Investment in IFF**

Grand Haven, Mich. – The Board of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) approved a \$1.5M investment in IFF (formerly Illinois Facilities Fund), one of the highest-rated Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) in the country. The five-year investment is to be used within West Michigan, with a particular emphasis on Northwest Ottawa County, to fund loans in the GHACF’s target communities.

IFF is a mission-driven lender, developer, researcher, and real estate consultant serving nonprofits and communities in the Midwest. They will use this investment to lend money to nonprofits for acquisition and renovation of facilities that allow them to achieve their missions.

“Capital is a critical resource that often seems just outside the reach of low-income communities. At IFF, we work hard to change that,” says Chris Uhl, IFF’s Executive Director for the Eastern Region, which includes Michigan and Ohio. “We work side-by-side with nonprofits to not only provide access to capital, but also access to tools and information that build their long-term financial well-being. GHACF’s investment into IFF has been critical to our decision to establish an office in Grand Rapids and scale our services in West Michigan.”

IFF’s top focus areas are affordable housing, schools, and healthcare. IFF has been operating in Michigan for 6 ½ years and have begun expansion into the West Michigan region with plans to open a satellite office in the Grand Rapids area. In Ottawa County specifically, IFF would look to grow relationships with investors and community influencers.

“IFF’s history and impact in local communities is impressive, said Hadley Streng, President of the GHACF. “Their expansion into West Michigan means great things for our community, not only because they work in partnership with our local organizations, but because we are investing directly into our community. This type of investment creates sustainable, positive social change, and we hope to support more projects like this in the future.”

This investment will complement the foundation’s current investment policy, programs, and grant-making activities and establish a process for the expanded investment and development of resources in the community. In 2020, the GHACF made a similar investment with Michigan Community Capital, which has since moved forward with an affordable housing development on Comstock Street in Grand Haven. Both investments keep the money local to this region.

## 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. For more information visit [ghacf.org](http://ghacf.org).

## ABOUT IFF

IFF is a mission-driven lender, real estate consultant, and developer that helps communities thrive by creating opportunities for low-income communities and people with disabilities. They help clients from every sector, including human service agencies, health centers, schools, housing developers, and grocery stores. IFF is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. They are the largest nonprofit CDFI in the Midwest and one of only a five nationally to hold the top-ranked Aeris four-star rating for impact management and AAA rating for financial strength and performance. Since 1988, they have made more than \$1 billion in loans, leveraging \$3 billion in community investments.

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