



For Immediate Release

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Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Grant Supports Gracious Grounds
GHACF Awards \$391,000 in the first round of Community Impact Grants for 2022

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. (March 10, 2022) –The Board of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) is pleased to announce five first-round Community Impact grant awards, totaling \$391,000 in support of Northwest Ottawa County and our surrounding communities. This includes a \$20,000 grant to Gracious Grounds for their Life Skills Wraparound Support Program, which works to support the integration of residents into Gracious Grounds and the larger community with measurable and customized goals.

The project includes the support of the Resident Support Coordinator (RSC) as well as technology to aid resident job seeking and the development of education and life skills. The RSC position will assist with individual case management and care coordination. The program's goals are to increase residents' integration into our community, reduce the unemployment rate of residents by 10%, and empower residents to advocate for themselves and their health.

“We are so incredibly grateful for this award from the Community Foundation and their continued belief in our mission and the opportunities we provide to those with unique abilities,” said David Burdo, Executive Director of Gracious Grounds. “Our Wraparound Support Program was designed to foster community connection, facilitate educational and social opportunities, assist with access to vital resources, and provide additional guidance for those who call Gracious Grounds home. This grant funding supports this initiative to empower our community members to take advantage of opportunities to live a life in the direction of their choosing and as independently as they are able.”

Burdo added, “We thank the Community Foundation for providing us with the financial resources to provide our Community Members with the tools and support necessary to continue to thrive and grow in the home they have at Gracious Grounds and within this amazing community.”

Additional Community Impact grants include:

Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC): ODC Network Summer Connection (\$81,000)

ODC will expand upon last summer's pilot program, Project 180, to address the learning loss experienced by children in grades K–5 in Ottawa County because of the impacts of COVID-19. Summer Connection will be a nature-based summer education program held in partnership with Grand Haven Area Public Schools and Walden Green Montessori.

Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence: Operations Infrastructure Enhancement Project-Phase 2 (\$50,000)

Funding will support the second of three phases in Resilience's Operations Infrastructure Enhancement Project. The project will advance their current labor-intensive operations and workflow processes to an integrated, cloud-based system. Enhanced, integrated, and streamlined software systems will allow Resilience to monitor analytics, develop budgets with greater accuracy, and maximize grant revenues available from state and federal funding sources.

Michigan Community Capital (MCC): Development Associate Project (\$225,000/3 years)

MCC will utilize this three-year grant to increase the organization's capacity within their development department through the dedicated support of the internal and external costs associated with property/site evaluation, legal and environment due diligence, and design. This position has the potential to increase MCC's total development capacity by one-third and provide MCC with the ability to take on additional projects in Northwest Ottawa County.

Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore: Rebuilding the Grand Haven Little House (\$15,000 matching grant)

A matching grant of up to \$15,000 was awarded to Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore to support the costs of fixtures, furnishings, and equipment for a new Grand Haven Little House. The house will be a location for Girl Scout troop meetings, trainings, special activities, programs, and an overnight option for local and traveling troops.

The Summer 2022 Community Impact grant round pre-applications are due May 11, 2022. Learn more at www.ghacf.org

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 9th 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.

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