PRESS RELEASE

For More Information, Call Holly Johnson, President, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, 616-842-6378

For Immediate Release

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation recently awarded three \$500 Facebook Mini-Grants to local non-profits. Applicants submitted a photo and 200-word description of their organization's project, then the public voted exclusively on Facebook. Submissions were open to any nonprofit and government entity who serves the Tri-Cities community. The public clicked 'Like' over 2300 times between June 13 and 24, and the winners were announced June 27.

While the top three received the same dollar amount, the organization with the most Likes, at 427, was Positive Options. They plan to use the mini-grant to redecorate their Best Life Parent classroom. Heaven Can Wait was close behind with 379 Likes, and they will use the funds to continue their work spaying, neutering, and fostering cats. Watermark Church received 254 Likes and plans to purchase commercial laundry facilities for their Laundry Hub.

"We were blown away by how many people participated, especially how many shares some of the photos had," said Melanie Swiftney, Director of Marketing & Communications at GHACF. "While we could only give away three grants, we helped raise awareness for seventeen nonprofits who serve our community."

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving <u>the</u> Tri-Cities community since 1971. It encourages philanthropy by individuals, families, companies and organizations, and serves as a steward of their charitable funds and legacies. In addition to grants, the Foundation offers technical and management support to nonprofits, convenes nonprofit leaders on issues of importance, and engages in advocacy work with nonprofits primarily focused on the needs of the most vulnerable members of the Tri-Cities community. For more information, or to give a tax-deductible gift to the Greatest Needs Fund at the Foundation, visit <u>ghacf.org</u> or follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/grandhavenareacommunityfoundation. -end-