

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Community Coalition Grants Third Round of Immediate Funds to Local Organizations**  
*Local organizations provide additional immediate funding to area nonprofits on the front line of crisis*

Grand Haven, Mich. – The community coalition created to respond to the COVID-19 crises has granted an additional \$80,160 from the Emergency Human Needs Fund to fourteen area nonprofit organizations that are helping our community in this time of crisis. This brings the total granted from the fund to \$198,610. Funding is provided on behalf of the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area (CFHZ), the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF), and the Greater Ottawa County United Way.

Nonprofit agencies in Ottawa County have committed to keeping people fed, housed, and healthy as best as they can. But these organizations face challenges as they balance their missions with the additional workload of managing the threat of COVID-19.

“The level of uncertainty this pandemic is creating, paired with layoffs and mandatory stay at home orders have resulted in an escalation of violence and abuse for many of the families in our community whose homes are not a safe haven,” said Beth Larsen, Executive Director of Resilience. “We have already witnessed an increase in the severity of cases and in the number of requests we’re receiving for emergency safe shelter. Funds received from the Emergency Human Needs Fund will allow us to temporarily expand our emergency safe shelter capacity for survivors of intimate partner violence in Ottawa County. This funding will literally save lives and for that, we are eternally grateful.”

In response to this need, the following funds have been granted to assist with food, housing (or shelter), and health:

- \$5,000 to Arbor Circle
- \$5,000 to Beacon of Hope
- \$7,500 to Bethany Christian Services
- \$1,500 to Bridge Youth Center - Zeeland
- \$2,500 to Children's Advocacy Center
- \$5,000 to Community Action House
- \$8,160 to Midtown Counseling
- \$2,000 to Extended Grace/Momentum Center
- \$2,500 to Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates
- \$5,000 to Love in Action of the Tri-Cities
- \$20,000 to Mosaic Counseling
- \$1,000 to Muskegon YMCA (Veggie Van –AgeWell Services Ottawa County Senior Curbside Meal Distribution)
- \$10,000 to Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence
- \$5,000 to The Salvation Army - Holland

“The need for affordable and accessible mental health services is more important than ever,” said Sarah Lewakowski, MA, LLP, Executive Director of Mosaic Counseling. “Most of our therapists are doing teletherapy, and so far, Mosaic has been able to refer everyone who has called via a phone intake.”

The community coalition has created a website to help with the rising need for volunteers, donations of both goods and funds, and ongoing updates: [www.careottawacounty.com](http://www.careottawacounty.com). Donations have already begun coming in, and the generosity of our community will allow us to continue to respond to this crisis.

This is a time of great need, and the natural human impulse is to help our neighbors, so join us in helping in any way that you can.

## 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).

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