

For Immediate Release
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Community Coalition Grants Fourth 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 \$156,750 from the Emergency Human Needs Fund to sixteen area nonprofit organizations that are helping our community in this time of crisis.

“This week we’ve put a strong focus on supporting food and the agencies working to feed our community,” said Hadley Streng, President of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. “Our hope is that by funding for several weeks, our partners can better plan for the upcoming need.”

This brings the total granted from the fund to \$355,360. 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 funds provided will be used to mobilize food distributions throughout northern Ottawa County to care for those facing food insecurity, homelessness and unexpected medical needs,” said Josh Bytwerk, Executive Director of Love in Action of the Tri-Cities. “Already the resources provided have helped us to quickly provide thousands of local residents with food who are facing unexpected challenges in this time.”

In response to this need, the following funds have been granted:

- \$750 to Barnabas Ministries
- \$2,500 to Benjamin's Hope
- \$35,000 to Community Action House
- \$7,500 to Coopersville Cares
- \$1,000 to Family LIFE Center
- \$10,000 to Hand2Hand
- \$7,500 to Harvest Stand Ministries
- \$10,000 to Holland Rescue Mission
- \$15,000 to Kids Food Basket (Holland)
- \$20,000 to Love In Action
- \$12,500 to Love Inc. Allendale
- \$5,000 to Love Inc. Hudsonville
- \$2,500 to Muskegon YMCA (Veggie Van: brought to Ottawa County in collaboration between the Grand Rapids YMCA, the Muskegon YMCA and the Tri-Cities YMCA)
- \$7,500 to The People Center
- \$12,500 to The Salvation Army (Grand Haven)
- \$7,500 to The Salvation Army (Holland)

“Since we began our emergency services just over three weeks ago, we've provided over 49,000 meals worth of groceries to over 2,180 people,” said Scott Rumpsa, Executive Director of Community Action House. “Just about two-thirds of these guests are newly relying on us in these challenging times. This nearly fourfold increase in our service numbers over the past few weeks is only possible when so many heroes step up in our community—staff, volunteers, and funders. We're working to sustain our increased spending on direct services, and we're extremely grateful for the emergency funding recently provided through the community coalition. Thanks to them and all who are stepping up and standing with us as we provide stepped up service with increased safety provisions during these unprecedented times.”

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. Donations have continued to come in, and the generosity of our community will allow us to further 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.

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