

For Immediate Release
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Community Coalition Emergency Grants Focus on Shelter, Housing

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 \$121,000 from the Emergency Human Needs Fund to seven area nonprofit organizations that are helping our community in this time of crisis.

“The community coalition agreed to award the majority of the funds from the Emergency Human Needs Fund this week to support housing,” said Hadley Streng, President of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. “Our conversations with community partners have indicated that there is an increased need for utility and rent assistance at this time.”

This brings the total granted from the fund to \$476,360. 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 (GOCUW).

“We have seen an unbelievable strain on vulnerable families due to the COVID-19 virus,” said Drew Peirce, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries. “The loss of income and other challenges due to this crisis fall directly on their housing stability. The incredible support from the community coalition will equip Good Samaritan Ministries to provide direct financial assistance and supportive services for families at risk of losing housing because of the personal and economic impact of the virus. These funds will allow Good Samaritan Ministries to continue responding proactively to the demand created by COVID-19 throughout the coming weeks and months, keeping our vulnerable households housed.”

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.

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

- \$10,000 to Coopersville Cares
- \$50,000 to Good Samaritan Ministries
- \$1,000 to Harbor Hospice Foundation
- \$10,000 to Love Inc Allendale
- \$10,000 to Love Inc Hudsonville
- \$20,000 to The Salvation Army (Grand Haven)
- \$20,000 to The Salvation Army (Holland)

The GOCUW transferred \$60,000 from their Responsive Grant Fund for this grant round. The fund prioritizes projects and programs that increase the affordable housing supply, improve the current supply, and increase accessibility. “Dedicating every available resource to help keep our community as resilient as possible is critical at this moment,” said Ryan Kilpatrick, Director of Housing Next. “We were poised to make big strides toward more housing at all price points in 2020. This funding can help to stabilize families until we're able to get those projects back on track.”

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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