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Contact:

Hadley Streng, President
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
616-842-6378
hstreng@ghacf.org

Mental Health Gets Assistance from Community Coalition Emergency Grants

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 crisis has granted an additional \$116,500 from the Emergency Human Needs Fund to ten area nonprofit organizations that are helping our community in this time of crisis. The majority of this round of emergency funding went to organizations focused on mental health.

The Ottawa County Community Mental Health website states, “Taking care of your mental health needs is very important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are feeling anxious, scared, stressed out, and angry. Kids might feel confused and disoriented due to changes in their routine. Parents are feeling overwhelmed. Social distancing can cause people to feel lonely and disconnected.”

“The current health crisis has increased demand for addiction services while in many cases making it dangerous to provide treatment in groups or one-on-one clinical sessions,” said David D. Teater, Executive Director of Ottagan Addictions Recovery. “Telehealth platforms provide a means of continuing to provide treatment in a safe and confidential environment. This funding from the Emergency Human Needs Fund will allow OAR to provide additional and critical services to those suffering from addiction through an enhanced Telehealth platform, while assuring the safety of OAR clients and staff.”

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:

- \$15,000 to Arbor Circle
- \$7,500 to Beacon of Hope
- \$15,000 to Bethany Christian Services
- \$7,500 to Midtown Counseling
- \$2,500 to MOKA
- \$7,500 to Momentum Center
- \$25,000 to Mosaic Counseling
- \$25,000 to Ottagon Addictions Recovery (OAR)
- \$10,000 to Resilience
- \$1,500 to Wedgwood Christian Services

“One of the often overlooked elements to the COVID-19 crisis is the toll it is taking on our mental health,” said Barbara Lee VanHorsen, Experi-Mentor at Momentum Center. “Fear, anxiety, and isolation are a difficult combination for any of us to navigate and they can be particularly dangerous for those who already struggle with mental illness, addictions, and disabilities. We are deeply grateful for these funds as they allow us to continue reaching out to our vulnerable members in very tangible and critical ways. They also enable us to extend our resources throughout the community as we continue to invite others into a place of safety, understanding and acceptance. We urge anyone who is struggling to reach out for the help they need as we all work to break down the barriers of stigma.”

This latest grant round brings the total granted from the fund to \$651,360. 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).

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.careoftawacounty.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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