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Community Foundation Awards Over \$250,000 in Third Round of Grants for 2022

Included is a community grant to help seniors manage conflict and seek peace.

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. — Oct. 18, 2022: The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) Board of Trustees has awarded five third-round Community Impact grants, totaling \$253,796 in support of Northwest Ottawa County and our surrounding communities. This year's grants were awarded to support survivors of sexual violence, food accessibility, business sustainability, and senior mental health.

This quarter's awards include a **\$63,796 grant to Mediation Services for "Pathway to Peace"** — a program that will provide mediation services and healthy communication skills training for adults 50 years and older.

This four-year pilot program will involve a partnership with Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging in Grand Haven to deliver services. The program's goals are to educate seniors on preventative conflict and healthy communication skills, offer one-on-one confidential coaching between trained mediators and seniors, and provide seniors with dispute resolution services.

"Mediation Services is grateful to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for supporting our Pathway to Peace program," said Elizabeth Scott, J.D., Executive Director at Mediation Services. "Older adults are a vibrant part of the Northwest Ottawa County population. This grant allows us to help seniors better understand how to resolve conflicts and to teach them ways to move forward and bring more peace into their lives."

"Mental health and wellbeing initiatives have been a priority of the Foundation," said Holly Cole, GHACF Vice President of Grants and Program. "The Pathway to Peace pilot program will help local seniors maintain and care for important relationships while navigating changes in their abilities and circumstances, in areas of focus such as healthcare, housing, finance, transportation, and many others."

Additional Community Impact grants include:

Every Woman's Place (EWP) — SANE Unit (\$20,000 / 3 years)

EWP will utilize the three-year grant to create and operate an on-site Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Unit. Currently, Muskegon County survivors of sexual violence are required to have an exam conducted at an emergency room. The SANE Unit is designed to address and meet the needs of survivors, humanize post-trauma care, and provide emotional and mental support in addition to the physical exam.

Feeding America West Michigan (FAWM) — Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign (\$50,000)

FAWM's Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign will increase capacity for food and nutrition acquisition services, distribution services, and educational programming through the renovation of a recently acquired 120,600 sq. foot warehouse. FAWM serves all of West Michigan, as well as the Upper Peninsula, specifically serving as the food and nutrition security providers within Northwest Ottawa County.

Love In Action (LIA) — Community Co-Op (\$70,000)

LIA's Community Co-Op is a membership-based cooperative that provides access to food and nutrition support for families in West Michigan's asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) population. The ALICE population represents those who are working, yet still struggling to make ends meet. LIA's Community Co-Op membership will be accessible via an income-based monetary fee, volunteer hours, or participation in educational programs. The project will require renovating a 7,000 sq. ft. space to create a market-style food selection space, food packaging rooms, learning kitchens, classrooms, and more.

West Michigan Sustainable Business Form (WMSBF) — Advancing a Circular Economy and Sustainable Business in West Michigan (\$50,000)

WMSBF's Advancing a Circular Economy and Sustainable Business in West Michigan program will encourage the development of local, regional, and state sustainability initiatives. Key priorities include the development and growth of the Lakeshore Sustainability Forum, food waste reduction, green stormwater infrastructure, and sustainability planning. Additional funding for this program is provided by: Renew Michigan Fund, Wege Foundation, EGLE 319 Grant, Environmental Defense Fund, RE-AMP, and corporations.

The pre-application for the next grant deadline has already passed. Preliminary applications for the first grant round of 2023 are due November 17, 2022, and the grant deadline is December 28, 2022.

About the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) 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 eighth largest community foundation in 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, GHACF 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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