



PHILANTHROPY NEWS

GHACF YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Spring 2023

Who is YAC?

Welcome to our first newsletter! The Grand Haven Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a collection of local high school students working to improve the lives of young people in Northwest Ottawa County. The council grants funds to projects throughout the community and conducts impactful service projects while learning about philanthropy and leadership. Last year, YAC granted more than \$100,000 to enact change.

Winter Service

The YAC spent their March meeting making a difference in the community. During the meeting, the YAC partnered with Hand In Hand, a youth-led ministry of St. Mary's Church, dedicated to providing hope through essential hygiene products—from students to students. The YACers worked to pack bags filled with hygiene products to distribute to students that are unable to purchase the items for themselves. The bags will be distributed throughout the Spring Lake and Grand Haven school districts in order to make a difference in the lives of students.



Youth Fund

Please consider helping YAC! You can donate by writing a check to "Grand Haven Community Foundation Youth Fund", visiting our website and selecting "give today" or scanning the QR code:



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead

One of the team's favorite grants was recently given to the "Creating Reading Communities One day & One Author at a Time" project at Grand Haven Area Public Schools. This project responded to a drop in 4th, 7th, and 8th grade reading levels (due to the pandemic) by giving books to each student in those grades. After they completed the books, the school brought in the author to speak. Multiple YACers got to witness Gary Schmidt's visit to Lakeshore Middle School where the students came alive as they engaged with the world of reading. The council is so proud of the growth the students have displayed and the educators who made it possible.



The YAC's spring grant round closed April 5th and the members are looking forward to reviewing all the wonderful applications and funding some incredible projects throughout the community. YAC members look forward to reviewing grants each year and are excited to see the opportunities and programs coming to the community. Notification for who has received funding from the 2023 Spring Grant round will be announced May 26th. A new application will open in the fall of 2023 and we urge community partners to apply! Information about upcoming grant rounds and the YAC's grant priorities can be found on the GHACF website under the Youth Grant Program tab.

Upcoming Community Activities

Envisioning Our Community's Future – Forum Series

GHACF is partnering with the Chambers of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg, to offer a unique chance for local businesses, leaders, and community members to learn about and discuss issues impacting Northwest Ottawa County and plan for the future through a six-part speaker series. Location, time, and ticket information can be found at

<https://grandhavenchamber.org/tuesday-forum-series/>.

Story Walks

Walk through Hemlock Crossing with an interactive story. It will be May 15–18. These will take place in parks around Ottawa county at the same time. More information:

<https://www.miottawa.org/Parks/programs.htm>.

www.ghacf.org
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Farmers' Markets

Grand Haven Farmers' Market will open May 7 and will be Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chinook pier. Spring Lake Farmers' Market will open June 1, Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tanglefoot Park.



2022-2023