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Shape Corporation Awards Grants to Enhance Literacy & STEM Programs

GRAND HAVEN, MICH., August 21, 2023 – Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers are projected to grow by 10.5% by 2030, according to the National Math and Science Initiative. Since 2021, Shape Corp., in partnership with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, has awarded nearly \$90,000 in grants to area schools to enhance their STEM and Literacy programs.

“It has been extremely rewarding to see how educators have used these funds to foster STEM and literacy in their schools,” said Scott Navarre, Director of Engineering at Shape. “They have created fun and engaging programs to teach fundamental critical thinking skills and generate interest in these areas. I look forward to the exciting development of both these pioneering initiatives and the students they inspire.”

Shape Corp. is a global engineering and manufacturing company whose purpose is to empower individuals to Shape technology, Shape lives, and Shape communities.

“The funded grants from Shape have allowed our students at Oakridge Schools to explore topics using a hands-on approach to learning,” said Chad Majeski, a teacher at Oakridge Middle School. “Grant funds were used to purchase robot kits that required students to build the robot prior to controlling it. Without the support of Shape, Oakridge students would not have the opportunity to explore robotics and drones in such a wonderful manner,” he added.

Through an application process, Shape awards grants to K-12 schools in Ottawa and Muskegon Counties, supporting projects that emphasize literacy and STEM curriculum. The grants have been used to purchase the equipment needed to launch STEM pilot programs or enhance already existing programs.

“The generosity and support of Shape. and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is unparalleled, as always,” said Aaron West, Spring Lake Middle School Principal. “In this particular instance, it has allowed the students and staff of Spring Lake Middle School to take their educational experience into the 21st century - specifically learning robotics, and we are truly grateful,” he added.

“We [Shape] believe that supporting educational experiences like this will have a lasting impact on the students and our community,” Navarre said.

Shape awards grants each spring. If you’re interested in learning more about Shape’s grant program, please contact Holly Cole, VP of Grants and Program with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, at hcole@ghacf.org or (616) 842-6378.

About the GHACF

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving Northwest Ottawa County community since 1971. GHACF is regularly recognized as a top 100 Community Foundation in the nation and is the 7th 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.