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## Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Awards Largest Amount of Community Impact Grants in History *Including One of Its Largest Single Grants to Date*



*Image provided by the Tri-Cities Family YMCA*

December 14, 2023 -- Grand Haven, MI --- The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) recently awarded 11 Community Impact Grants totaling \$928,538, including one of its largest grants to date. In all, GHACF has awarded over \$1.7 million in Community Impact Grants in 2023.

Through these grants, GHACF helps increase the capacity of local for-impact organizations by strategically investing in community programs that improve and advance the Northwest Ottawa County area. We connect people, support programs, and foster change in six key priority areas. Preliminary applications for 2024's second grant round are due February 7 at [ghacf.org/grants](https://ghacf.org/grants).

This quarter's awards include a **\$425,000 grant to Tri-Cities Family YMCA (YMCA) for its capital improvement project**. A previous campaign starting gift of \$75,000 results in a total of \$500,000 – the largest grant in our history. This milestone is also significant, as the YMCA was the recipient of one of GHACF's first-ever grants in 1972.

“The Tri-Cities Family YMCA has been one of our longest partnerships in the community and was one of five organizations that each received a \$200 grant in the GHACF's first grant round. We have partnered together on many initiatives and have witnessed their growth and broad community support over the years. We are honored to be part of their current capital

improvement project and look forward to what this will offer our community,” said Hadley Streng, President, GHACF.



*Conceptual rendering provided by Tri-Cities Family YMCA.*

"We are thrilled to have the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation continue as a partner as we steward the YMCA for the next generation. They were with us in the beginning and have provided crucial support throughout our history. Their commitment as a community partner is unwavering and for that we are grateful. The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation truly is here for good and forever," said Greg Coil, Tri-Cities Family YMCA CEO.

The Tri-Cities Family YMCA's capital improvement project will expand and enhance its early childhood education program; update its facility to improve access for all and enhance its multigenerational health and wellness programs; and complete essential repairs to its infrastructure. The YMCA currently serves about 10,000 people annually.

With twice as many children ages 0-5 as available childcare spots in Ottawa County, the Tri-Cities Family YMCA plans to expand childcare and preschool capacity by 40% and provide second-shift care. Other improvements are specifically designed to provide more access to older adults and individuals with limited mobility, as well as energy efficiency.

#### **Community Foundation for Muskegon County: FARM Support — \$25,000**

The food processing incubator Food, Agriculture, Research, and Manufacturing (FARM)'s manager will provide technical assistance and expansion support for small businesses, industry, and entrepreneurs, as well as educational opportunities for students exploring careers in agriculture and STEM.

#### **Community Foundation for Muskegon County: Support for the Muskegon Community College (MCC)'s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) — \$30,000**

This grant will support the expansion of DEI programming to leaders, educators, residents, and students in Ottawa County. The programming will leverage best practices and resources to promote a culture of inclusion for all.

**GHACF TCAN: Operations + Pilot Launch — \$164,856/three years**

This grant will support the Tri-Cities College Access Network's (TCAN) efforts of fostering a post-secondary education culture within NW Ottawa County school systems and launch a new pilot program, Pyramid Practices, within the Preschool Roundtable network.

**Greater Ottawa County United Way: Lakeshore Housing Alliance - \$15,000**

The Lakeshore Housing Alliance (LHA) is a collaborative group dedicated to identifying needs, developing coordinated strategies, and advocating for safe, accessible, affordable housing in Ottawa County. This grant will support the LHA Coordinator position and Homeless Management Information System Administrator to continue serving over 1,500 individuals annually.

**Hand2Hand: Match Grant to Purchase a Refrigerated Box Truck — \$50,000**

Hand2Hand delivers nutritious food to students over the weekends and on extended school breaks, currently serving more than 10,000 students ages 3-18 across West Michigan. This box truck will help them serve more than 12,000 additional students. According to the 2021 Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey, only one in four teens eat five or more servings of fruit and vegetables on an average day. This program will deliver healthier food options to area youth, including fresh produce.

**Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes: Dedicated Support and Learning for Lakeshore Youth — \$40,000/two years**

This grant will support a new, permanent education staff position focused on the Lakeshore area to deliver impactful K-12 learning experiences to the youth of these areas. Junior Achievement's programs connect students to business professionals in their community to learn about different paths to success. Programs are provided to schools at no charge and are designed to suit each grade level.

**Muskegon YMCA: Pentalouan 100-Year Anniversary Campaign — \$50,000**

Camp Pentalouan has an exemplary 100-year history of building the next generation of leaders. This grant will help them reinvest in infrastructure, making its facility and programming more inclusive and accessible. Camp Pentalouan serves 4,500 people annually through its summer overnight camps, day camps, family programs, and outdoor education, including more than 1,000 local students.

**Opportunity Thrive: Educator Wellness Coaching Program — \$45,000**

Opportunity Thrive works to improve educator wellbeing through assessments, one-on-one coaching, and improving staff culture. This grant will support its Educator Wellness Coaching Program within participating NW Ottawa County schools, which helps increase teacher retention by 24% and teacher wellbeing scores by 8.3%.

**Grand Haven Township: Soccer Goals for Schmidt Heritage Park — \$33,682**

This grant will support the continued development of Schmidt Heritage Park's six soccer fields, with 10 new portable goals. This will promote a safe outdoor space to promote team building and exercise, especially in Northwest Ottawa's youth.

**Women's Resource Center: New Beginnings for Justice-Involved Women — \$50,000**

The Women's Resource Center (WRC)'s programs address the systemic and structural inequities women of color and women with criminal histories face. The grant supports the launch of the New Beginnings program in Ottawa County. This program is a critical aspect of WRC's work that results in 78% of the women securing meaningful employment and returning to their community after incarceration. Participant recidivism is projected to be 25% or less, compared to 44% nationally.

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#### **About the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation**

Over the past half-century, GHACF has been regularly recognized as a national top 100 Community Foundation and one of the largest 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 for-impact organizations, convenes community leaders on issues of importance, and advocates for the for-impact sector. For more, visit [ghacf.org](http://ghacf.org).

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