



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Holly Cole, Vice President of Grants & Program, GHACF  
hcole@ghacf.org  
(616) 842-6378

*(Photo of Adjacent Property to Rosy Mound Natural Area)*

## **Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Supports Rosy Mound Expansion** GHACF Awards Six Community Impact Grants Totaling \$526,620

September 4, 2024 – Grand Haven, MI – The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) recently awarded \$526,620 in Community Impact grants for a total of \$1,049,418 to date! The Ottawa County Parks Foundation (OCPF) was one of the six recent grant recipients, receiving \$200,000 to aid in the long-awaited expansion of the Rosy Mound Natural Area (RMNA).

With its 164 acres, including 116 acres of state designated critical dunes, RMNA has been a valuable natural resource for the community, generating 445,400 visits since 2017, with over half visiting from outside of Ottawa County. The OCPF's purchase of an adjacent 127-acre property includes an additional 108 acres of critical dune and will greatly enhance the experience of this destination park.

"The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation's generous gift to the 'Fulfilling the Rosy Mound Vision' campaign demonstrates their tremendous commitment to protecting one of the world's most unique natural resources – Lake Michigan's freshwater dunes," said Anita Yoder, President of the Ottawa County Parks Foundation. "This grant will help to ensure that one of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission's most beloved parks – Rosy Mound Natural Area - is expanded, protecting its natural features and making it more accessible to people of all abilities. We thank the Community Foundation for this incredible support!"

The RMNA expansion plan includes additional trails, parking, and beach access points; a scenic overlook; and added accessibility features and park upgrades.

"Rosy Mound is one of our community's most wonderful assets, and we are happy to support the OCPF's mission to expand this beautiful natural resource that we're so lucky to have right in our own backyard," said Holly Cole, GHACF Vice President of Grants and Program. "Supporting economic growth, as well as the preservation of our majestic dunes, is what we would call a win-win!"

### **Additional Community Impact Grants Awarded Include:**

Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance – Capacity Building (\$160,000)

The Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance (LNA) received a grant to support their efforts in assisting local for-impact partners. Funding will go toward building their capacity to provide strategic resources,

training, and tools, including the launch of an IT pilot program; creation of new learning opportunities; investment in internal infrastructure; and the establishment of an online membership portal for user-friendly accessibility and resource sharing, further helping for-impact organizations improve growth and effectiveness.

#### Muskegon YMCA – Camp Pandalouan Upgrades (\$50,000)

Camp Pandalouan is celebrating its 100-Year Anniversary with a campaign to increase inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability. A Community Impact grant was awarded to help fund updates such as a new high ropes course and renovated bathrooms, with the goal of providing a welcoming and genuine environment for all ages and ability levels and an inclusive camp experience for everyone.

#### Girls on the Run West Michigan – New Curriculum (\$29,620)

Girls on the Run is a (3-5 grade) program designed to empower young girls through a combination of physical activity and life skills development while fostering a supportive and inclusive community. After an in-depth analysis of the current eight-year-old curriculum, the organization determined that an updated suite of core curriculum was needed to provide a program experience that remained fresh and relevant to the current needs and interests of girls today while also increasing retention. A grant was awarded to support the cost of purchasing the new curriculum to ensure the program continues to inspire girls from all walks of life.

#### Opportunity Thrive – Educator Wellness Coaching (\$45,000)

Through the Educator Wellness Coaching program, Opportunity Thrive provides personal wellness inventories, one-on-one coaching, and overall staff culture development at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, Coopersville Area Public Schools, and Spring Lake Public Schools. This grant will ensure the program continues to support and help retain educational leaders and teachers with a focus on staff resilience, enhancing self-efficacy, and improving emotional regulation with the intention of ultimately supporting students in the classroom.

#### Foundation for Muskegon Community College –Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (\$42,000)

During this calendar year, the Muskegon Community College Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion held nine sessions for hundreds of attendees to advance their knowledge and understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). To build off the success of this programming and increased requests for sessions, the GHACF granted funds to support continued operations as well as stand-alone community-wide DEIB workshops, seminars, or cultural events with the goal of delivering at least 6 additional DEIB programs in Northwest Ottawa County.

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

For more than half a century, the GHACF has been regularly recognized as a national top 100 Community Foundation and one of the largest in Michigan. A public charitable organization serving the Northwest Ottawa County community since 1971, the Foundation 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 GHACF also 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](https://ghacf.org).

###