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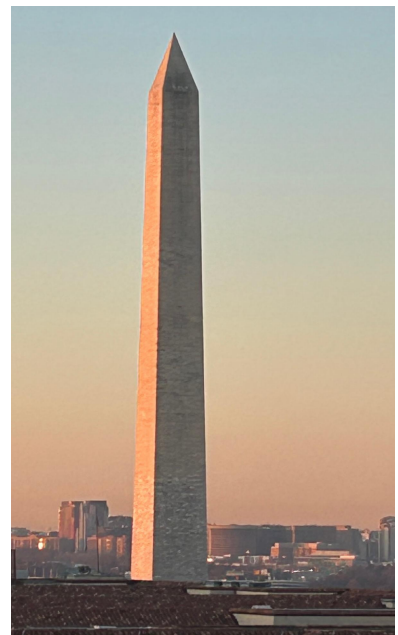
Hello Sunshine!

Spring is just around the corner (promise!) but the signs of a changing season are not the only things that are new around here! We are excited to announce we have a new Administrative Assistant, we awarded a new round of Community Impact grants as well, and soon we will welcome two new board members.

In other “news,” our GHACF President, Hadley, recently returned from the 22nd annual Foundations on the Hill conference for the philanthropic sector. It sure is an exciting time, and not just because spring is in the air!

Foundations on the Hill

What a wonderful and uplifting experience to gather with fellow philanthropic sector and foundation leaders at the Foundations on the Hill conference. Hosted by the United Philanthropy Forum and the Council on Foundations, Hadley Streng attended with over fifty representatives from Michigan in partnership with the Council of Michigan Foundations. This year’s event featured expert-led sessions, strategic networking, and direct engagement with legislators and policy makers. Items discussed with legislators included the importance of endowments and tax benefits of charitable giving as well as the impact of the nonprofit sector in our local communities.



Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Interviews Completed

Thank you to all of the area youth



who applied and a big thank you to the current members of the Executive Committee (pictured) of YAC who facilitated the youth-led review and selection process to determine the 2025-2026 YAC Roster.

Each school year, approximately 20 students from northwest Ottawa County participate in YAC.

They learn about the issues and needs facing their peers and seek solutions to improve their community. They review and award grants to qualified community organizations with programs that benefit young people and learn valuable lessons about philanthropy.

Kennari Succession Lab a Success

With their busy schedules, it is difficult for many nonprofit leaders to carve out time for the creation of a succession plan. However, being prepared for possible executive transitions is an important part of ensuring your organization continues to run smoothly, along with the nonprofit work you do. That's where Kennari Succession Lab comes in and why we're so proud to host a series this quarter! This interactive workshop series, facilitated by Kennari Consulting, is designed for nonprofit Executive Directors/CEOs to create an emergency transition plan, as well as develop next steps in long-term planning.

Fully funded by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, attendees of the Lab included:

- Bluebird Cancer Retreats, Renee Denslow
 - Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Hadley Streng
 - Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, Tracy Riley
 - Love in Action, Josh Bytwerk
 - Momentum Center, Barbara Lee VanHorsen
 - Mosaic Counseling, Sarah Lewakowski
 - Tri-Cities Family YMCA, Greg Coil
 - Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity, Arlan Meekhof
 - Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Erica Layton
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Spreading the Love with Community Impact Grants

Our latest round of grants totaled \$232,000, with Love in Action (LIA) receiving \$125,00 toward their new warehouse facility. Called the LIA Storehouse, the new structure will replace the existing Donation Processing Center on Fulton Street and offer nearly double the space for storing and distributing essential items. This will allow Love in Action to address the growing food insecurity within our community, which has increased by more than 50%.

Two other grants were awarded, including:

A \$57,000 grant went to Samaritas to help fund navigational services for residents of a new Spring Lake housing community. These services will address challenges to housing stability such as access to childcare, transportation, education, employment, and healthcare.

A grant of \$50,000 was awarded to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, providing collaborative support for the Food, Agriculture, Research, and Manufacturing (FARM) Manager role. The funding will assist the FARM manager in their work expanding education and career pathways, supporting minority and women entrepreneurs, and increasing the use of locally sourced food in schools and institutions within the region.

To learn more about the Community Impact Grants awarded, their recipients, and the wonderful causes they support, you can [read our full press release here](#) or [view it here in the *Grand Haven Tribune*](#).

Happy spring!

We are here for **you**.
For **good**. For **all**. Forever.

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