



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) Grant Expands Recycling Ministry for Greater Community Impact, a total of \$386,500 in Grants Awarded by the GHACF**



*Jay De Boer (Council President), Josh Bytwerk (Love In Action's Executive Director), and Art Van Wolde (First Christian Reformed Church's Pastor)*



*DeBoer, Bytwerk and Van Wolde in front of the future Recycling Ministries site.*

December 19, 2025 – Grand Haven, MI – The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation recently awarded \$386,500 in grants, including a \$50,000 grant to First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in support of their recycling ministry's move to Fulton Street.

Love in Action is moving out of the 1106 Fulton Street building and has chosen to keep the property and partner with First CRC. The goal is to share space with one or two other local ministries as well. This centralization of ministries will allow for a collaboration of efforts to serve even more individuals in the community, meeting needs with increased efficiency and accessibility.

"We are thrilled about this partnership and proud to support the recycling ministry's efforts to strengthen the impact they have on our community," said Amy Moore, GHACF Vice President of Grants & Program. She added, "Our grantmaking will not only enhance operational efficiencies, but also expand the reach of their services, ultimately allowing more individuals and families to benefit. That's something we're truly excited to support through our strategic Community Impact grants."

Moving to the Fulton Street location will provide First CRC with nearly double the space and enable them to house operations and equipment. It will also centralize their programs, which include several ministries—the Recycle, Garage Sale, Appliance, and Bicycle Ministries—all focused on recycling and repurposing items to help the community and protect the environment. By increasing the amount of scrap metal collected and sold, First CRC will generate additional revenue to support local programs and community initiatives.

“For over a decade, First CRC of Grand Haven has been running a recycling program to keep metal out of the landfills. During this time, well over one million pounds of metal have been recycled and not discarded,” explained Pastor Art Van Wolde of First Christian Reformed Church. He added, “The program has outgrown its current space, but with Love in Action graciously allowing us to use part of their Fulton Street building, we can expand this recycling program to communities throughout the Tri-City area.”

Funding will not only assist with the move and transformation of the space but also help to secure a 10-year partnership for using the building, with potential for extension beyond that period. Moore stated, “This will create a lasting and meaningful impact on our community for generations to come.”

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

##### **Camp Blodgett – Program Expansion into Grand Haven and Tri-Cities Area (\$30,000)**

Funding will support several programs that provide affordable childcare and inclusive spaces. These programs will empower youth by helping to build self-esteem, initiative, empathy, and responsibility, prioritizing mental health and well-being. Programs include a Youth Builders afterschool program where participants will learn to build guitars, longboards, and drums, as well as a Leadership Cohort for 15 seventh and eighth graders promoting community engagement through mentorship and service projects. The grant will also support at least 20 local youth in summer residential programs, including the 105th season of summer camp, STEM Academy, and Young Leaders.

##### **Children’s Advocacy Center – Hybrid Group Therapy Room (\$32,000)**

Grant funds will transform an existing large room into a technology-equipped, comfortable, and private group therapy space for children, teens, and families healing from child sexual abuse. This project aims to expand access to therapeutic support by offering a hybrid service model that includes both in-person and virtual group therapy and support sessions. This will allow the center to reach geographically isolated families throughout Ottawa County, and significantly increase capacity to deliver accessible, flexible, and inclusive support services to child victims and their caregivers.

##### **Loutit District Library – Waanders' Maker Space and Art Studio (\$71,000)**

After receiving community feedback and a generous donation from the Waanders family, the Loutit District Library is aiming to create both a maker space and art studio to foster creativity, encourage innovation, and engage community. GHACF funding will help support the transformation of existing rooms into these fully equipped, collaborative work and play spaces, providing creative and educational opportunities for all ages free of charge.

##### **Mary Free Bed – Pediatric Rehabilitation Hospital (\$50,000)**

Funding will support the building of a three-story, 67,000-square-foot hospital dedicated solely to rehabilitation for children. This will double the current number of pediatric inpatient beds from 12 to 24 and increase outpatient volume capacity by 20%. The plan includes outdoor therapy zones and family spaces; the integration of advanced technology and tools to elevate care and comfort for young patients; and a range of services provided, including inpatient nursing and therapy, outpatient clinics and therapy, orthotics, prosthetics, and bionics, feeding programs, autism diagnostic services, and more. This grant is part of a combined \$150,000 in GHACF Community Impact funding awarded to date for this project.

#### Out Side In, Inc. – Expansion of Heroes for Horses program (\$36,000)

Funding will help to continue growing and strengthening the Out Side In Heroes for Horses program, which provides mental health services to veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The program offers a comprehensive and innovative approach to mental health care by integrating therapeutic support with the rehabilitation of retired thoroughbred racehorses. The goal is to expand the program from four hours per week to 12, to increase the number of veterans served from eight in the cohort and individual programs to approximately 30-40.

#### Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services –Pediatric Center of Behavioral Health (\$75,000)

This grant will support the creation of a 136,000-square-foot facility offering comprehensive, specialized care for children and families, including a Pediatric Psychiatric Urgent Care Center, a high acuity inpatient unit, and two general inpatient units totaling 66 beds. The new facility will expand access to services for autism spectrum disorder, substance use disorders and eating disorders—reducing travel burdens and wait times while improving outcomes for youth. In addition, the center will provide partial inpatient hospitalization, outpatient, and telehealth services, ensuring patients receive care at any point in their behavioral health journey. This grant is part of a combined \$175,000 in GHACF Community Impact funding awarded to date for this project.

#### Spring Lake District Library – Sunroom Project: New Programming Space (\$42,500)

This grant will help fund the construction of a new programming space, designed to support both educational and senior-focused activities. The addition consists of a 1,200-square-foot indoor programming space that opens into a new 600-square-foot patio, providing the flexibility necessary to enable year-round programming in a welcoming environment for patrons of all ages. Funds will also support parking lot changes, landscaping updates, relocating the book drop-off, and adding access to the existing patio on the east side of the building.

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

For more than a half-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 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](http://ghacf.org).