

Greetings!

We love this time of year when giving to others and spreading kindness and cheer is top of mind and all around us! We are happy to share the recent grants awarded by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF), the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), the Allendale Community Foundation (ACF), the Coopersville Area Community Foundation (CACF), and the Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC).

We are also proud to share this year's YAC service project, scholarship possibilities, wonderful resources for community news, and of course, opportunities for giving. May the holiday season and the coming new year bring happiness and joy!

GHACF Community Grants Total Over \$2M in 2025

Recently, the GHACF awarded \$386,500 in grants, bringing our grand total to **more than \$2 million** this year! What a gift it is to be able to support so many great causes making a positive impact on our community. Congratulations to all 2025 community grant recipients!

[See the Recipients](#)

The Spring Community Impact pre-application is now open. Please reach out to [Amy Moore](#), VP of Grants & Program, if you would like to discuss grant funding options for next year.

Youth Service Makes a Difference in Our Communities

The GHACF YAC members recently spent an evening building bunk beds for community youth who otherwise wouldn't have one.



In November, a group of youth advisory council members from the GHACF and CACF attended a one-day regional conference hosted by the Allegan Community Foundation, where they learned about grantmaking and leadership.



Looking for the Perfect Gift? We Can Help.

Year-end gifts are made easy here, and with over 700 funds to choose from, you're sure to find the perfect one to match your charitable goals and support what matters to you most! We also have a [community wish list](#) to help connect you with giving opportunities; and supporting a greatest needs fund is always a good choice, as it helps us stay nimble in addressing our community's most critical needs.

If you'd like to give to this fund or any others, or if you're with a nonprofit or for-impact organization with a wish to add to the list, please contact [Adrienne Whisman](#).

Support Your Community's Greatest Needs

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Another great option for year-end giving is to donate to an endowment fund. With this type of fund, a spendable amount is calculated and made available annually for grantmaking. Over time, endowment funds grow, generating a continuous and increasing stream of funding that not only supports charitable causes now and into the future, but also supports the organization's mission by providing financial stability and allowing for flexibility and growth - of the utmost importance in keeping our community going strong in a fluctuating economy.

In short, giving an endowment gift helps us give back more and ensures long-term viability, keeping the foundation responsive to current and emerging community needs for generations. It's a gift that keeps on giving! Bonus: charitable gifts are often tax deductible. To find out more, contact [Chris Riker](#) or [Sarah Enlow](#).

Have You Ever Considered Donating Your RMDs?

Required minimal distributions (RMDs) are mandatory withdrawals from tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as traditional IRAs, that individuals must begin taking at age 73. However, if you directly transfer your RMDs to a charity, you can deduct them on your tax return and effectively reduce your income taxes by lowering your adjusted gross income.*

The GHACF—and its affiliates—accept RMDs. However, **RMDs may not go to donor advised funds (DAFs).**

Scholarship Opportunities Await

Our 2026 scholarship applications are now open! Scholarships are based on a range of criteria—from financial need to field-of-study to academic achievements, or perhaps whether a student is a first-generation college student.

There are a variety of scholarships available, and the application deadline is **January 30 at 11:59 pm**. Don't wait, apply today!

[Learn More](#)

Soup For All: A Delicious Way to Give Back!



Members of our team (above) attended the annual Soup for All fundraiser, enjoying delicious soup donated by local restaurants in support of Homeless Prevention Partners and the incredible work they do in our community—raising awareness and funds to help homeless students and families, providing utility and rent assistance for emergency situations, and filling food pantries.

The huge turnout shows the amazing community support for this event, and we couldn't be prouder to be a part of it, as well as holding a fund that supports Soup for All. Thank you to all the organizers, volunteers, and attendees who continuously make this event so impactful. Together, we can make a difference!

Two Great Resources for Community News

The Lakeshore West Michigan

The GHACF is a proud founding partner and consistent supporter of the Lakeshore West Michigan, a weekly digital news source focusing on the dynamic communities and neighborhoods, businesses, residents, the arts and social innovations within Allegan, Ottawa, and Muskegon counties. Stay on top of local news and learn more about our vibrant communities by signing up for their newsletter below.

[Sign Up](#)

Ottawa News Network

A non-profit public service provider offers free access to timely and accurate news relevant to Ottawa County communities. It's a great, dependable resource for local information. Check out area news, sign up for updates, and find stories that **matter to you**.

[Learn More](#)

GHACF Holiday Hours

Please note that GHACF office will be closed **December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1**, so staff members can enjoy the holidays. We hope you do as well!

Still interested in making your year-end gift?

There's still time to make a year-end gift. Whether online - which is quick and simple - or by mailing a check to our office, every gift makes a difference within the community!

[Give a Gift](#)

[See the Wish List](#)

** Please consult with your financial advisor for additional guidance and advice.*

For **good**. For **all**. Forever.

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