

Growing Our Knowledge, Our Team, and Our Impact

Spring is just around the corner, and so are new opportunities to strengthen our community. From recent grant awards to leadership development and youth engagement, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation continues to grow alongside the region we serve. Here is a quick look at some of what we have been working on.

Impact Community

Community Impact Grants

In our most recent round of Community Impact Grants, the Foundation awarded \$551,311 to organizations serving northern Ottawa County.

A significant portion of this funding included \$250,000 to the Village of Spring Lake for the redevelopment of North Bank Park (formerly Central Park), creating a fully accessible, year-round gathering space designed for people of all ages and abilities.



Additional funding was awarded to projects in arts and culture, environmental stewardship, and health and human services across northern Ottawa County.

[See the full list of grant recipients and community impact.](#)

Nonprofit Day at the Capitol

President and CEO, Hadley Streng, attended Michigan Nonprofit Association's annual advocacy event in Lansing, where nonprofit leaders from across the state engaged with policymakers and discussed issues affecting communities across Michigan. She also had the opportunity to visit with Senator Roger Victory and his staff to talk about the power of local philanthropy and the impact nonprofits are making every day in our community.

We're thankful for strong partnerships at the state level that help ensure communities like ours continue to thrive.



Lakeshore Literacy Summit

The Foundation is proud to support the Rotary Lakeshore Literacy Summit 2026, a free half-day event focused on early literacy and community collaboration. Educators, parents, and community members are encouraged to attend.

March 27, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Trillium Event Center, Spring Lake

The event is free to attend. [Register here.](#)

YAC: Welcoming the Next Generation of Leaders

Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has student leaders stepping into new roles and help shape the future of our community.



This year, the youth-led council completed interview and hiring training and then applied those skills by reviewing applications and interviewing prospective members. Through this process, they played an active role in selecting the next cohort of YAC members.

We are excited to introduce the 2026–27 YAC Executive Committee, new members, and returning members who are already preparing to make a meaningful impact.

We look forward to the leadership, ideas, and energy this group will bring as they continue YAC's work of supporting and strengthening our community.

2026–27 New Executive Committee

- Eleanore Hitsman, Chair
- Delaney Reisner, Vice Chair

Returning Members

- Calleigh Fogel
- Krew Isard

- Emma Canale, Secretary
- Kyle Friggens, Treasurer
- Alaina Lamb, Social Media
- Breylen Taylor, Fund Development

2026–27 New Members

- Paloma Alamillo
- Rhea Howard
- Ellee Kline
- Jake Perraut
- Benjamin Ratke

- Shea Jarmosco
- Lauren Meigs
- Frank Mulcahy
- Kaitlyn Palmer
- Luke Ratke
- Eli Sispera
- Carmen Toliver
- Autumn Wahlberg

Inspire Philanthropy



New Fund Spotlight: Dr. Lloyd Rotz Family Scholarship Fund

Dr. Lloyd Rotz's story is one of perseverance, service, and a deep belief in the power of opportunity.

Raised in a modest four-family flat in Detroit, Lloyd's curiosity about the world led him far beyond his neighborhood. At just 17 years old, he hitchhiked to Oregon to work as a lumberjack, earning money for school and gaining a lifelong appreciation for hard work and determination.

He went on to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later practiced medicine abroad with

the State Department. After earning his degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dr. Rotz returned to West Michigan, where he spent decades caring for families in the Grand Haven area with compassion and humility.

As a longtime donor, fund holder, and Legacy Society member, Dr. Rotz has seen firsthand how philanthropy can change lives. Inspired by both his own journey and the needs he has witnessed in the community, he established the **Dr. Lloyd Rotz Family Scholarship Fund**.

This scholarship supports graduating seniors from Grand Haven and Spring Lake schools, as well as adults in northern Ottawa County who are continuing their education. It is designed for individuals facing financial barriers, including those who have experienced housing instability, and who are committed to building a better future through education or training.

Dr. Rotz created this fund to remove barriers and open doors, offering the same sense of possibility that shaped his own path.

Community Partner Spotlight

Now is a powerful time to support the Tri-Cities Family YMCA.

Through the recently launched **Spring into Action Challenge Campaign**, every dollar donated between March 20, 2026 and June 30, 2026 will be matched, up to \$250,000, doubling the impact of your gift.

This campaign supports the "Y for All" capital improvement project, helping transform the YMCA's 50-year-old facility into a modern, welcoming space that will continue serving more than 10,000 individuals each year.

With matching funds available for a limited time, your support can go twice as far in strengthening a cornerstone of health, wellness, and community connection.

[Take advantage of the matching opportunity](#)

Community Wish List Spotlight: Ready for School

Looking to make a difference but not sure where to start? The Community Wish List connects you directly to needs identified by our local for-impact partners, making it easier to support the people and programs strengthening our community.

March Highlight: Ready for School - Building Early Literacy From the Start

March is National Reading Month, a time to celebrate the power of reading and its lifelong impact. [Ready for School](#) is seeking support to expand its **Reach Out and Read** Michigan program at the Corewell Health West Grand Haven clinic, bringing early literacy directly into pediatric care.

Current Need:

\$10,000 to support provider training, literacy materials, and culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate books for children and families during 1,000 well-child visits.

Why It Matters:

Through Reach Out and Read, medical providers help parents build daily reading habits from birth to age five, creating meaningful moments that strengthen language development, school readiness, and long-term success. Research shows families in the program are significantly more likely to read together, and children demonstrate stronger language skills.

Recent funding changes have created a gap for this clinic, making community support especially important at this time.

How You Can Help



- [Email our team to recommend a grant through your Donor Advised Fund](#)
- [Give directly to the nonprofit](#)

Every contribution—at any level—makes a difference.



Strengthening Philanthropy

Growing philanthropy starts with continuously strengthening how we connect donors to meaningful impact.

Chris Riker, Vice President of Advancement and Donor Services, recently attended the Advancement Network (AdNet) Conference, joining more than 450 community foundation professionals from across the country. The conference focused on innovative approaches to

donor engagement, fund development, and philanthropic advising, equipping our team with new strategies to better serve donors and inspire greater impact across our community.

Manage Investments

Commitment to Transparency

As part of our commitment to responsible stewardship, the Foundation is currently undergoing its annual independent financial audit. This process ensures the funds entrusted to us are managed responsibly and with the highest level of transparency and accountability.

Stewardship Powered by People

Responsible stewardship begins with the people who guide and manage the work of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. Their expertise and dedication ensure the funds entrusted to us are managed carefully and invested in ways that strengthen our community today and for generations to come.

This month we are proud to recognize three team members celebrating work anniversaries at the Foundation in the first quarter of 2026. We are grateful for their commitment and for the care they bring to our work each day.



Patty MacDonald
Vice President of Finance



Nancy Dykstra
Accountant



Sarah Enlow

12 years

4 years

Advancement & Donor
Services Manager

1 year

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

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