

From supporting students and for-impact organizations to celebrating donor generosity and responsible stewardship, this month's stories highlight the many ways philanthropy is making a difference throughout Northern Ottawa County.

Impact Community

Scholarships by the Numbers

This spring, the GHACF awarded scholarships to help students pursue their educational goals and build brighter futures. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, hundreds of students across Northern Ottawa County received support for their next chapter.

375 Applications Received	193 Students Awarded	257 Scholarships Awarded
67 Awards to first- generation students	\$1,133,440 Awarded to Students	50 Multi-Year Awards



Spring Competitive Grants Invest \$187,901 in Community Impact

This spring, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and its affiliate foundations awarded \$187,901 in competitive grants to for-impact organizations, schools, and community partners working to strengthen Northern Ottawa County.

Through our Grand Haven Area Foundation Community Impact Grants, Allendale Community Foundation, Coopersville Area Community Foundation, Youth Advisory Council (YAC), and Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC) grant programs, funding will support a wide range of initiatives that expand opportunities for youth, strengthen families, enhance community spaces, and improve quality of life throughout our region.

Projects funded this cycle include youth leadership and wellness programs, hands-on educational experiences, mentoring and financial literacy initiatives, arts and culture programming, outdoor recreation opportunities, community infrastructure improvements, and expanded access to critical services for individuals and families.

Together, we're building stronger, more vibrant communities, one grant at a time.

[Click here for a full list of all the organizations that received a grant this spring through our competitive programs.](#)

Celebrating a Year of Youth

Leadership

The GHACF's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) recently concluded another successful year of learning, service, and community impact.

Throughout the year, YAC members awarded grants, volunteered their time, and explored the role philanthropy plays in strengthening our communities.



To celebrate their accomplishments, members toured the Tri-Cities Family YMCA, a project they proudly supported through its Capital Campaign, and saw firsthand how their efforts help bring community priorities to life. We also recognized our graduating seniors and thanked all YAC members for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to making a difference.

The future is bright, and we're grateful for the young leaders helping shape it.

Inspire Philanthropy



Fund Spotlight:

Gerard F. Haring Renovation Fund

Established as a Community Service Fund at the GHACF, the Gerard F. Haring Renovation Fund is helping transform the Spring Lake District Library through a \$500,000 gift from former Spring Lake resident Fred Haring in honor of his late father, Gerard F. Haring.

The project will create a new indoor-outdoor programming space and enhance the library's grounds, expanding opportunities for learning, creativity, and community connection. Designed to support educational, intergenerational, and senior-focused programming, the addition will provide flexible year-round space for residents of all ages while creating a more welcoming and accessible environment both inside and outside the library.

For Fred, the gift is very personal. Growing up in Spring Lake, he spent countless hours at the library exploring books, ideas, and possibilities. Later in life, the library became a daily

destination for his father, Gerard, whose curiosity and enthusiasm for lifelong learning made him a familiar face at library programs and events.

Made in honor of what would have been Gerard's 100th birthday, the fund reflects a family's gratitude for a community institution that shaped generations of learners. More importantly, it ensures that the Spring Lake District Library can continue to inspire curiosity, foster connection, and serve as a welcoming hub for the community for years to come.

Community Wishlist Spotlight:

Music on the Grand

As we celebrate National Great Outdoors Month, we're highlighting Music on the Grand, a beloved summer tradition that has brought free live music, dancing, and community connection to Grand Haven's waterfront for 56 years.



Each Wednesday evening from June through August, hundreds of residents and visitors gather at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium, one of our community's beautiful outdoor gathering spaces, to enjoy live performances from local musicians. Set along the riverfront, Music on the Grand offers an opportunity for people of all ages to experience the outdoors, connect with neighbors, and enjoy the vibrant energy of summer in Grand Haven.

While admission is free, Music on the Grand relies on community support to cover musician fees, insurance, venue costs, and other operating expenses. Gifts of any size help ensure this cherished community tradition continues to bring people together for years to come.

Did You Know?

- 56 years of free summer concerts
- 300–400 attendees each week
- 13 weeks of live music each summer
- \$9,500 funds an entire season of Music on the Grand

How You Can Help

[Email our team](#) to recommend a grant through your Donor Advised Fund.



Celebrating Legacy Society Members

On June 16, we gathered with Legacy Society members and guests to celebrate the individuals and families who have chosen to support the future of our community through planned giving.

Their generosity ensures that charitable resources will continue to address community needs, support local organizations, and create opportunities for

generations to come. We are honored to recognize our Legacy Society members and thank them for the enduring impact of their commitment to Northern Ottawa County.

Manage Investments

Thank You for Your Service

This year, we recognize and celebrate the service of Mary Carole Cotter and David Swain as they conclude their terms on the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Board of Trustees.

Throughout their tenure, Mary Carole and David generously shared their time, expertise, and passion for our community. Their leadership helped guide the Foundation's work, strengthen our stewardship of charitable resources, and advance opportunities that improve the quality of life throughout Northern Ottawa County.

Their thoughtful leadership has helped position the Foundation for continued impact in the years ahead. Please join us in thanking Mary Carole and David for their years of service and commitment.



Mary Carole Cotter
Board of Trustees
2020–2026



David Swain
Board of Trustees
2020–2026

Celebrating Staff Milestones

This quarter, we are proud to celebrate two staff milestones at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

Holly Cole recently marked nine years with the Foundation. As Director of Strategic Programs, she supports several committee-advised funds and the Tri-Cities College and Career Access Network (TCAN), helping create opportunities for students and strengthen our community.

We are also celebrating Trevor Shaw's first anniversary with GHACF. As a member of the Grants & Program team, Trevor supports our competitive grant and scholarship programs, helping connect resources to initiatives that make a difference throughout Northern Ottawa County.

Please join us in congratulating Holly and Trevor and thanking them for their service to our community.



Holly Cole
Director of Strategic Programs
9 Years



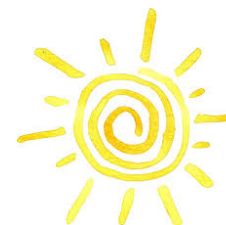
Trevor Shaw
Grants & Program Associate
1 Year

Stewardship that Shapes the Future

A key part of our mission is ensuring that charitable resources are managed with care, integrity, and accountability. We are pleased to share that the Foundation recently received a clean audit, reflecting sound financial practices and responsible stewardship of the funds entrusted to us.

Summer Office Schedule

Summer is a busy season for our team as we connect with for-impact partners, donors, and community members throughout Northern Ottawa County. While walk-in visits are always welcome, we encourage you to call ahead if there is a specific staff member you would like to meet with to ensure they are available.



Please note that our office will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

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

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