

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Allendale Community Foundation Supports Youth Growth, Confidence, and Safety Through Spring 2026 Grants

The Allendale Community Foundation is investing in programs that help young people grow, learn, and thrive both in and out of the classroom. Through its Spring 2026 grant cycle, the foundation has awarded funding to support initiatives focused on youth safety, mental and physical wellbeing, and future career readiness across the Allendale community. Each funded program reflects a shared commitment to helping young people build confidence, develop essential life skills, and feel supported as they navigate their formative years.

Creating Safer Spaces for Children

The Children's Advocacy Center received funding to continue and expand its "Kids Have Rights" body safety program in Allendale-area schools.

Through age-appropriate lessons, the program helps elementary students understand personal boundaries, recognize unsafe situations, and learn how to speak up when something doesn't feel right. By reaching students early, the program focuses on prevention while equipping children with knowledge and confidence that can have a lasting impact on their safety and wellbeing.

Building Confidence and Connection Through Movement

Girls on the Run West Michigan was awarded funding to launch its new "Hello, Bold Heart!" curriculum in Allendale.

This program brings together physical activity and social-emotional learning, helping girls build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and develop positive relationships with peers. Through the structure of a running-based program, participants gain both the tools and the encouragement to navigate challenges in school, at home, and in their communities.

Preparing Students for Future Success

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes received support to expand its work with Allendale students, bringing financial literacy, career exploration, and entrepreneurship education into more classrooms.

Through hands-on learning experiences and connections with local volunteers, students are introduced to real-world skills that help them better understand how their education connects to future



opportunities. These early experiences lay the groundwork for long-term success, helping students build confidence in their ability to make informed decisions about their futures.

Investing in the Next Generation

Together, these grants highlight the Allendale Community Foundation's commitment to supporting young people at every stage of their development. From ensuring children feel safe and supported, to helping them build confidence and prepare for what comes next, these investments reflect a belief that strong communities are built by investing in their youngest members.

The Allendale Community Foundation is proud to partner with organizations that are making a meaningful difference for Allendale's youth and families.

About the Allendale Community Foundation

The Allendale Community Foundation (ACF) was established in 2000 as an affiliate of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. The ACF advances the community through visionary leadership, grantmaking, and stewardship of funds. The assets and number of funds at the ACF continue to grow, as does the positive impact they make. For more information visit ghacf.org/Allendale/