

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coopersville Area Community Foundation and Youth Advisory Council Invest in Local Programs, Students, and Community Needs

The Coopersville Area Community Foundation (CACF), along with its Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC), is investing in programs that strengthen the Coopersville community - from supporting essential services and local events to expanding opportunities for students.

Through its Spring 2026 grant cycle, CACF and CAYAC awarded funding to a range of organizations and initiatives that reflect both community priorities and the voices of local youth.

Supporting Community Services and Local Events

Circle of Friends received funding through CACF to purchase tables, a speaker system, and event equipment that will support community events such as Kids Fest and the annual Easter Egg Hunt — helping ensure these long-standing traditions continue.

Coopersville Cares was also awarded funding to purchase tables for its food pantry and clothing closet operations, improving efficiency and allowing staff and volunteers to focus more on serving local families.

In addition, Circle of Friends received support through CAYAC for a Safety Town floor tarp, enhancing hands-on safety education experiences for young children in the community.

Expanding Opportunities for Students

Coopersville Area Public Schools received funding to support its High School Archery Club, helping cover participation costs so more students can be involved, as well as funding for new 3D printers to expand hands-on learning and technical skill development.

The Coopersville Area Arts Council was awarded CACF funding to support its Summer Theatre Camp, providing opportunities for students to explore creativity and build confidence through performance. The program also received additional support from CAYAC, reinforcing its value as one of the area's only youth theatre opportunities.

Girls on the Run West Michigan received CACF funding to provide scholarships for Coopersville-area participants, ensuring more girls can access programming that supports both physical activity and social-emotional growth. CAYAC also awarded funding to support local participation in the program, helping remove financial barriers for students.

Youth Supporting Youth

Through the Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council, local students play an active role in grantmaking by reviewing proposals, discussing community needs, and making funding recommendations.

This spring, CAYAC awarded grants to several youth-focused projects, including:

- Coopersville Area District Library – Active Play Circulating Kits (\$1,000) to encourage physical activity and social connection
- Children’s Advocacy Center – Expressive Art, SMART, and Play Therapy Updates (\$3,000) to support therapeutic resources for children who have experienced trauma
- Coopersville Area Public Schools – Girls on the Run (\$1,500) to expand access to the program locally

These investments reflect the priorities identified by students themselves, with a focus on mental health, youth engagement, and creating accessible opportunities for their peers.

Investing in the Coopersville Community

Together, CACF and CAYAC awarded nearly \$10,000 in youth-led grants this spring, alongside broader community investments that support organizations serving Coopersville residents every day.

From improving access to essential services to creating opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection, these grants demonstrate the impact of both community-driven and youth-led philanthropy.

The Coopersville Area Community Foundation is proud to partner with local organizations and empower student leaders who are helping shape a stronger, more connected Coopersville.

About the Coopersville Area Community Foundation

The CACF was established in 1993 as an affiliate of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and has since grown into a \$14.3 million non-profit, for-impact organization with nearly 100 funds. Since its start, the CACF has given over \$3.5 million in grants, impacting numerous local organizations and programs that make a difference.

With in-depth understanding of the issues, opportunities and resources that shape communities, the CACF monitors all areas of community need, including arts and culture, economic and community betterment, education, the environment, and health and human services.

Learn more at ghacf.org/Coopersville