

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Invests in Access, Opportunity, and Wellbeing Across Northwest Ottawa County

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) is investing in two initiatives that reflect a shared goal: ensuring every resident, regardless of their circumstances has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Through its Spring 2026 Community Impact grant cycle, GHACF has awarded funding to support expanded immigration legal services and increased access to youth-focused outdoor programming across Northwest Ottawa County.

Together, these projects represent a commitment to meeting people where they are by removing barriers, building confidence, and strengthening the fabric of the community.

Expanding Access to Critical Legal Services

The Immigrant Assistance Center of West Michigan received \$75,000 to expand access to affordable, high-quality immigration legal services for individuals and families in Northwest Ottawa County.

As the region continues to grow, so does the need for trusted, culturally responsive support. The organization provides direct legal representation, outreach, and education, ensuring individuals and families can better navigate complex legal processes with clarity and confidence.

By meeting clients in familiar community spaces such as schools and churches, and offering multilingual support, this work helps reduce barriers related to cost, language, and access while creating pathways to greater stability for families across the region.

Helping More Kids Experience Movement, Confidence, and Joy

Velo Kids Inc. was awarded \$20,000 to expand its Bike School and Learn to Bike programs through the purchase and build-out of an additional mobile "Bike Bus."

For many children, especially those without access to equipment or transportation, learning to ride a bike can feel out of reach. Velo Kids changes that by bringing fully equipped, hands-on programming directly to schools and community sites creating safe, welcoming opportunities for kids to learn, move, and build confidence.

With the addition of a second Bike Bus, the organization will be able to serve more students, reach new locations, and respond to growing demand for programming that supports both physical activity and social-emotional wellbeing.

A Shared Vision for Community Impact

While these projects serve different populations and needs, they share a common thread: expanding access to opportunity.

Whether it's helping a family navigate the legal system with dignity or giving a child the chance to experience the freedom of riding a bike for the first time, these investments are about strengthening the foundation of the community one person, one program, and one opportunity at a time.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is proud to partner with organizations that are deeply committed to creating a more inclusive, healthy, and connected Northwest Ottawa County.

About the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving Northwest Ottawa County community since 1971. GHACF is regularly recognized as a top 100 Community Foundation in the nation and is the 8th largest community foundation in the State of Michigan. It encourages philanthropy by individuals, families, corporations, and organizations, and serves as a steward of their charitable funds and legacies. In addition to awarding grants, the Foundation offers technical support to nonprofits, convenes community leaders on issues of importance, and advocates for the nonprofit sector. For more information visit ghacf.org.