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Contact: Hadley Streng, President & CEO, GHACF
hstreng@ghacf.org
(616) 842-6378



The GHACF scholarship season wraps up with an ice cream social to celebrate the 2026 scholarship recipients, their families and scholarship fundholders.



West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Scholarship Fund recipient Christina Koratich with Fund Advisors (L to R) Tony Thon, Phil Syswerda and Elliot Rudert.



Recent Mary E. Wilsberg Scholarship Fund recipients (L to R) Johanna Evink, James Friggins, Luke Glasgow, and McKayla Goosen with Fund Advisor, Dottie Johnson (center).

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Celebrates Area Students

July 29, 2026 – Grand Haven, MI – The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) and its affiliates – Allendale Community Foundation and Coopersville Area Community Foundation - recently celebrated students from across the region who received scholarships through funds established by generous community donors.

This spring, over \$1.1M in scholarships was awarded to 234 students through scholarship funds held by the Foundation. Scholarship recipients, their families, and the donors who make these opportunities possible were recognized during the annual Scholarship Ice Cream Social.

The scholarships support students pursuing a variety of educational pathways, including four-year universities, community colleges, trade schools, and certification programs. Awards are based on varying criteria, including academic achievement, financial need, field of study, community involvement, leadership, and whether a student is the first in their family to continue their education after high school.

"This is one of our favorite events of the year because it brings together students, families, and donors to celebrate the impact of education and philanthropy," said GHACF President & CEO Hadley Streng. "Each scholarship represents someone in our community choosing to invest in a student's future, and it is inspiring to see the opportunities that investment creates."

This year's awards included 50 first-generation scholarship recipients, 47 two-year awards, and 3 four-year awards. In addition to new awards, students receiving renewal installments from previously awarded scholarships were also recognized.

"When students receive a scholarship from the Foundation, they are receiving more than financial assistance," said Streng. "They are receiving encouragement from a community that believes in their potential and wants to see them succeed."

The GHACF and its affiliates administer a wide range of scholarship funds created by individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who are passionate about supporting educational opportunities for local students. Collectively, these funds help remove financial barriers, recognize achievement, and encourage students as they pursue their goals after high school.

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About the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is a public, charitable organization serving Northern Ottawa County since 1971. GHACF, including its affiliates in Allendale and Coopersville, 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.