



Coopersville Area
Community Foundation



Grand Haven Area
Community Foundation



Allendale
Community Foundation

Across Northern Ottawa County, donor support is opening doors through investments in services, education, and community initiatives. These stories reflect the lasting impact of philanthropy in action.

Impact Community

Grant Impact Spotlight: Harbor Humane Society

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation supported Harbor Humane Society's new adoption center through a **Community Impact Grant during our Spring 2025 grant round**.

Construction is now underway on the \$3.6 million project, marking an important milestone in bringing this vision to life.



Once complete, the new 5,500-square-foot adoption center will provide a more welcoming experience for animals and potential adopters. Harbor Humane cares for 3,000–4,000 animals each year, and the expanded space will help the organization better meet community needs while improving animal welfare. This project reflects the impact of donor-supported grantmaking and the continued investment in a stronger, more compassionate community.

[Donate to the Harbor Humane Society Fund](#)



Connecting Scholarship Recipients and Fundholders

Earlier this week, scholarship recipients and the fundholders who support them came together to celebrate the power of education and philanthropy. The event gave students an opportunity to personally thank the donors whose generosity is helping make their academic goals possible, while

fundholders had the chance to see the impact of their giving firsthand.

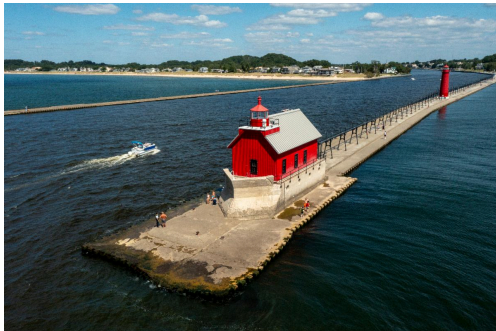
This year, the Foundation awarded more than **\$1.1 million through 257 scholarships**, investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators, and community members. Events like this help strengthen the meaningful connections that make these scholarships so much more than financial support.

Strengthening Connections Across Our Nonprofit Community

The Foundation welcomed nonprofit partners to the Mart & Dottie Johnson Courtyard Garden for an afternoon of conversation, connection, and shared learning this summer. The gathering provided an opportunity for local organizations to build relationships, exchange ideas, and explore ways to work together to create greater impact across our community.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and shared their time and insights. Strong partnerships help strengthen the work happening throughout our region, and we look forward to continuing these conversations in the months ahead.



Experience a Piece of Grand Haven History

One of Grand Haven's most beloved landmarks is welcoming visitors once again. After an extensive restoration, the historic Grand Haven Lighthouse has reopened for tours, giving residents and visitors the chance to experience this iconic piece of our community's heritage up close. The project preserved

an important local treasure while ensuring it can be enjoyed for generations to come.

If you'd like to help support the ongoing preservation of the lighthouse, the Foundation stewards the Grand Haven Lighthouse Fund, which provides a way for donors to invest in the future of this cherished landmark.

[Donate to the Grand Haven Lighthouse Fund](#)

Grant Impact Spotlight: The Salvation Army's New Beginnings Shelter

The Foundation was proud to provide a community impact Grant and additional funding for New Beginnings, The Salvation Army's new emergency shelter for families with minor children experiencing a housing crisis. We invested in this project because it addresses a critical

community need—providing families with a safe place to stay together while they work toward stable housing and a brighter future.

Earlier this month, community partners gathered to celebrate the project's groundbreaking, marking an important step forward in bringing this much-needed resource to our region. When completed, New Beginnings will offer shelter, support, and stability for families facing homelessness, helping create stronger outcomes for parents and children alike. It's a powerful example of how philanthropy and partnership can come together to make a lasting difference in our community.



Inspire Philanthropy

Fund Spotlight: Waanders Family Fund

The Wanders Family Fund was established to honor the values of John and Judy Wanders and their shared commitment to education, creativity, and community enrichment. Through their fund at the Foundation, the family sought to create opportunities that inspire curiosity, encourage lifelong learning, and help people of all ages explore new ideas and skills.



One example of that impact can now be seen at the **Loutit District Library Makerspace and Art Studio, which was supported by the Wanders Family Fund, a Community Impact Grant and the Youth Advisory Committee**. The space provides access to technology, tools, and creative resources that help expand learning opportunities and foster innovation throughout our community—a lasting reflection of the Wanders family's vision and generosity.

[Visit the New Makerspace](#)

Community Wishlist Spotlight: Disability Lakeshore Network

During Disability Pride Month, we're highlighting Disability Network Lakeshore (DNL) and the impact it has on our community. DNL helps individuals with disabilities access resources, build skills, advocate for their needs, and live more independently.

Through our Community Wishlist, fundholders have an opportunity to support DNL's continued growth and impact. Donations help expand outreach efforts, ensuring more individuals and families can connect with essential programs and services.



DNL is seeking **\$2,500 to fund 2,000 quarterly advertisement postcards** that promote its expanded programs and services. These materials will help the organization connect more individuals and families with available resources while increasing awareness of consulting and other services that support long-term financial sustainability.

How You Can Help

- [Email our team](#) to recommend a grant through your Donor Advised Fund.
- [Donate directly to Disability Network Lakeshore here.](#)

[See What Local Nonprofits Need](#)



Tri-Cities YMCA "Y for All" project

Congratulations to the Tri-Cities Family YMCA on surpassing the \$10 million mark in the "Y for All" Campaign and securing additional support from the State of Michigan.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is proud to have partnered in this community effort. Through multiple funds and initiatives, including the recent challenge match, GHACF and its donors have contributed more than \$2 million toward the campaign.

Thank you to the many donors, fundholders, community partners, and volunteers whose generosity and commitment have helped make this achievement possible. Together, we are helping bring this vision to life and creating a lasting impact for our community for generations to come.

Partnering with Professional Advisors

The Foundation recently welcomed local attorneys, accountants, financial planners, and wealth advisors for an evening of connection and conversation in the Mart & Dottie Johnson Courtyard Garden. Professional advisors play an important role in helping individuals and families achieve their charitable goals, and partnerships like these help ensure donors can maximize the impact of their philanthropy.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, including our Investment Advisor, Ben Larson from Northern Trust. We value the opportunity to work alongside trusted advisors to help carry out our



donors' charitable wishes and create lasting benefits for our community.

Looking Ahead: August is Make-a-Will Month

August is National Make-a-Will Month, a reminder of the importance of creating or updating your will. While everyone needs one, only about one-third of Americans have a will in place. Estate planning isn't about uncertainty—it's about peace of mind, protecting loved ones, and ensuring your wishes are honored.

Including a charitable gift in your plans is also a meaningful way to leave a lasting impact. The Foundation can help you explore simple options, like designating a gift through your will or naming the foundation as a beneficiary. It's an easy way to support causes you care about and create a legacy that benefits the community for years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about how to create your own legacy, please contact Chris Riker at 616-842-6378 or criker@ghacf.org.

Five (Good) Reasons to Make a Will

Manage Investments

Q1 & Q2 Fund Performance Overview

As we begin the 2nd half of the year, we wanted to extend our sincere thanks for your continued generosity and trust in the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and our affiliates. Because of supporters like you, 2026 will be another exceptional year of impact for our community. **Our investment portfolio achieved an 11.8% rate of return for Q2 2026**, helping to strengthen our ability to support meaningful initiatives and create lasting positive change throughout the community.

Growing our Team

Miya Luckey joins the Foundation as **Marketing & Communications Coordinator**, bringing experience in communications, content development, storytelling and community engagement. In this role, Miya will lead the Foundation's marketing and communications



efforts, helping share the stories of our donors, partners, and community impact while strengthening our outreach across digital, print, and event platforms.

Summer Office Hours

As summer activities keep our team busy in the community meeting with donors, fundholders, and nonprofit partners, we encourage you to call ahead if you'd like to meet with a specific staff member.

Please note that our office will be closed Friday, July 31, for Coast Guard Festival. The Foundation is proud to steward several funds that help support the Coast Guard Festival Fireworks. If you'd like to help ensure this cherished community tradition continues for years to come, you can make a gift to the Coast Guard Festival Fireworks Forever Fund below.

Coast Guard Festival Fireworks Forever Fund

Thank You for Investing in Our Community

Because of donors, fundholders, nonprofit partners, and community members, together we are creating opportunities, strengthening organizations, and improving lives throughout Northern Ottawa County.

Support a Fund

Support a Local Nonprofit

Start a Fund

For **good**. For **all**. For**ever**.

Follow us on social for updates



Grand Haven Area Community Foundation | 6 Sherman Ave. | Grand Haven, MI 49417 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!