

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2026

Contact

Amirah Vosburgh, Executive Vice President & COO
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
616-842-6378
avosburgh@ghacf.org

**Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Strengthens Critical Support
Systems Across Northwest Ottawa County**

GHACF Awards More Than \$687,000 Through Its Summer 2026 Community Impact Grant Round

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. — The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) Board of Trustees recently approved more than \$687,000 in Community Impact grants to support organizations strengthening health, education, safety, nonprofit capacity, environmental sustainability, and essential support services across Northwest Ottawa County.

These grants represent investments in organizations and initiatives that improve quality of life today while building a stronger, more resilient future for our community.

Investing in Critical Support for Survivors

Among the grants approved this cycle was a \$114,500 grant to Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence, an organization dedicated to responding to, reducing, and preventing domestic and sexual violence throughout Ottawa and Allegan counties.

For nearly 50 years, Resilience has provided free and confidential services to survivors, offering advocacy, crisis intervention, housing support, prevention education, and other critical resources for individuals and families experiencing violence. Their work helps ensure survivors have access to safety, support, and pathways toward healing.

As victim-service organizations across the country prepare for significant reductions in government funding, organizations like Resilience face increasing challenges in sustaining the services communities rely on. The Foundation's investment will help strengthen Resilience's long-term sustainability while increasing awareness of available services throughout the Tri-Cities area.

Domestic and sexual violence impact every community. Having strong local organizations that provide confidential support, compassionate advocacy, and life-changing resources is essential to the health and well-being of our region. This grant reflects GHACF's commitment to helping ensure that survivors continue to have access to the services they need, when they need them most.

"The need for victim services has not diminished, even as funding challenges continue to grow," said Megan Hennessey, Executive Director of Resilience. "This grant will help strengthen Resilience's long-term sustainability while increasing awareness of the support and resources available to survivors

throughout the Tri-Cities communities. We are grateful to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for their partnership and investment in ensuring that people experiencing violence know they are not alone and can continue to access the services they deserve.”

Additional Community Impact Grants Approved

Child Development Services of Ottawa County | \$30,000

Building Healthy Futures: A Community Playground Initiative

Funding will support the development of a new playground at the Central School childcare center in Grand Haven, creating a safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate outdoor learning environment for young children.

HEARTSafe Tri-Cities | \$23,600

Citizen CPR HEARTSafe Community Distinction

Support for a community-wide initiative to expand CPR and AED training, increase public awareness, improve emergency preparedness, and work toward national HEARTSafe Community designation across Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, and surrounding areas.

John Ball Zoo | \$150,000

Geothermal Heat for New World-Class Giraffe Habitat

Funding will support sustainable geothermal infrastructure as part of the Zoo's African Expansion Project, creating new educational and conservation learning opportunities for Northwest Ottawa County residents while reducing the facility's environmental impact.

Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance | \$300,000

Leading & Learning Well, Together: For-Impact Capacity for Northwest Ottawa

A three-year investment to strengthen nonprofit leadership, governance, technology infrastructure, and financial management support for organizations serving Northwest Ottawa County.

Ready for School | \$69,605

Reach Out and Read: Fostering Literacy and Early Relational Health

Funding will expand and sustain the evidence-based Reach Out and Read program at Corewell Health Pediatrics in Grand Haven, helping families build foundational literacy skills during a child's earliest years.

Building a Stronger Community Together

Collectively, these grants support a wide range of community priorities, including early childhood development, literacy, public safety, nonprofit effectiveness, environmental sustainability, and support services for vulnerable individuals and families.

"The impact of these investments extends far beyond individual projects," said Hadley Streng, President & CEO of the GHACF. "Together, they strengthen the organizations, systems, and partnerships that help make Northwest Ottawa County a vibrant, healthy, and resilient place to live, work, and raise a family."

For more information about the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and its grantmaking programs, visit ghacf.org.



The Winter 2027 Community Impact Grant pre-application portal will open on September 22, 2026, with final pre-applications due November 4, 2026. Organizations interested in applying can learn more at [GHACF.org](https://ghacf.org) or contact a member of the grants team at 616-842-6378.

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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.