

# Spring 2023 Community Grants



Grantee	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Grant Funded
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	Blue Lake Public Radio Equipment Upgrade	Blue Lake Public Radio has undertaken a multi-year project to update broadcasting equipment. An initial focus of this effort is the remote control system for the WBLV transmitter facility in Hesperia. WBLV is the primary emergency alert system (EAS) station for Lake, Mason, and Oceana counties due to signal dominance and the availability of professional staff. Automation and remote control systems allow the station to function effectively with a very small professional staff. An upgrade to the existing system will help the station to provide reliable service to the community for years to come. \$3,000 will cover a portion of the Burk Technology ARC system that is needed.	\$ 3,000.00	Sparks/Ryan Memorial Fund (3000)
Catholic Charities West Michigan	Mobile Baby Pantry	Our new mobile baby pantry will expand access to essential baby and toddler supplies to marginalized and underserved communities across West Michigan. This grant will allow us to provide these emergency support services to struggling families in Oceana. The program is designed to operate on a lean budget that emphasizes the efficient delivery of these essential emergency items to families across West Michigan. The entire budget for the mobile baby pantry in its first year is \$90,078 of which \$10,009 is allocated to Oceana County. In this year's budget supplies have not been included as they have been assigned to another program in this first year. The request \$5,000 will help partially cover Oceana County allocations of 2 staff members and fuel for delivering to Oceana clients.	\$ 5,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (500) Oceana Youth Fund (4500)
Centenary United Methodist Church	Pentwater Community Dinner, 2nd Meals	We have been providing tasty meals to the community for over 15 years. We work closely with the Health Department to ensure that our food is safe. We are able to provide tasty food. This grant will provide commercial grade, food safe containers, a vacuum sealing system and a label maker with labels. We send two meals a week to COVE. One is hot and the other is frozen for later use. We must purchase more food grade commercial containers for transporting salads, soups and sauces to COVE.	\$ 3,040.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (1500) Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund (1540)
Claybanks Township	Claybanks Township Park's Observation Deck 2023 Renovation	This almost 30 year old bluff side deck has proven to be our second most favored amenity just behind our magnificent beach. Weddings, sunset photography, off shore competitions and simply viewing the incredible scenery draws people from all over the country onto this deck. It's showing its age now and really deserves an attractive facelift. With a quote of \$4,675 for just the bottom deck boards, support of \$5,000 will help make this project come to life. We will be collaborating with the Trinity Lutheran Church's Men's Club and their accompanying youth group of volunteers to provide free labor.	\$ 5,000.00	Henry & Dorothy V. Fischer Family Fund (5000)
Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters	Keep Me Safe	The Keep Me Safe project is to purchase safety items for any child two years and under residing in our shelter. The funds for this project would purchase items such as car seats, baby-proofing supplies, safe sleeping supplies, proper eating and seating, and stock every shelter unit with a CPR/First Aid Kit. The need that will be addressed in the project is the understanding that when a parent flees from domestic violence they do not have the opportunity to bring all of their belongings in our emergency shelter. Some parents must leave with only what they can carry. Parents who are fleeing are left to take items donated that may be expired, recalled, or may not be suitable for their child's weight and height. It is critical to have the proper car seat, crib/pack-n-play, and other safety items that a child requires.	\$ 3,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (1500) Child Neglect and Abuse Prevention Fund (1000) Oceana Youth Fund (500)
Hesperia Community Schools	Miss Greta - Our Panther Cub Therapy Dog	In the education world there is more we can do to create deeper meaning at school. As an educator it is my job to energize students. And, as a teacher of those with special needs and disabilities, I understand that school is not always enjoyable for this population. Social struggles beget academic struggles and decreased motivation; emotional impairments inhibit relational skills. A creative solution that is proven to remediate such struggles is exposure to therapy dogs. I want to take that creative step. Regularly having a therapy dog in my classroom will allow me to reap all of the social, emotional, relational, and academic benefits for children exposed to the therapy dog.	\$ 2,000.00	Oceana Youth Fund (2000)

Hospice of Michigan, Inc.	Grief Support Services	Hospice of Michigan's Grief Support Services is one of the organization's six philanthropic programs. This program services individuals-- both adults and children--who are coping with the loss of a loved one. Services are provided through individual and family grief counseling; support groups; memorial services; grief seminars and workshops. With these services, community residents can navigate their grief journey with the knowledge, tools, and a professional and reliable support system. As critical as these services are to families, Grief Support Services are a non-reimbursed expense, funded solely through philanthropy. Grant funds will be used to cover the costs associated with providing bereavement counseling and education in Oceana County.	\$ 2,000.00	Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund (2000)
First Tee-West Michigan in Oceana	First Tee Life Skills Experience Curriculum	Funds will be utilized to assist in defraying costs associated with providing affordable programs, in most circumstances, FREE opportunities to students across Oceana County. First Tee- West Michigan in Oceana has a unique opportunity to serve students ages 7-17 with an introduction to golf and along the way, teach them valuable life skills and values they can apply to the course and everyday life. These opportunities would typically include 6 week sessions either at a local golf course or specific school districts where partnerships have been formed. First Tee understands the value in providing opportunities in the child's sphere and more importantly, making it accessible and affordable.	\$ 500.00	Joe Foster Junior Golf Fund (500)
Migrant Legal Aid, Inc.	Outreach, Education, and Support of Migrant Farmworkers in Oceana County	The project is to concentrate outreach and education to farmworkers in Oceana County to accomplish three things: (1) Protect their health and wellness, by visiting workers in their housing sites to monitor conditions, review minimum wage calculations, living and working conditions, and health and safety precautions, (2) register farmworkers who worked during COVID so that they can receive FFWR (Federal Farm Worker Relief) funds of \$600 each for having worked during COVID; and (3) Direct legal representation (attorney-client meetings) with our Oceana County victims in a trafficking case pending in federal court. Our Director of Outreach and Education will lead these efforts, and we will hire and train additional staff to help with this expanded programming. Altogether, our holistic outreach will enhance the human dignity of existing farmworker families and newly arriving workers in Oceana County. The project includes distribution of hygiene supplies, legal rights educational material, and collaboration with local migrant service providers in Oceana County.	\$ 5,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (2500) Community Investment Fund (2500)
Oceana Conservation District	Cost Share Opportunity to Address Invasive Species on Private Land in Oceana County	Last year Oceana Conservation District devised a Conservation Needs Assessment to identify the greatest ecological concerns within the community. In collecting data from survey responses, it is clear that the community would benefit from expansion of our invasive species management efforts. With limited funds and resources, our invasive species program has been dependent on contracted work. Looking forward, the district is considering the development of its own invasive species treatment crew, we call a "strike team", to respond more effectively to the needs of the community. Funding will be used to support staff wages, herbicide costs, and mileage costs to conduct treatments of Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed on private lands in Oceana County.	\$ 2,500.00	Eugene Kuhne Fund (1000) Community Investment Fund (1500)
Oceana County Council on Aging	Streamline Senior Sound	Oceana County Council on Aging (OCCOA) offers an array of services and programs that encourage independence, social interaction, health and wellness. Many of these activities require the use of audio or visual equipment. From activities like games and movies to presentations from guest speakers, media equipment that provides adequate sound and image is of the utmost importance for our organization. OCCOA's current equipment is severely lacking, and it is affecting the quality of service provided to the seniors we serve. With this funding we will upgrade our equipment to better meet the needs of seniors in our community.	\$ 2,384.91	Community Investment Fund (2384.91)
Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission	Acquisition of ADA Complaint Picnic Tables	The purpose of this grant request is to purchase 8 side accessible picnic tables that will be ADA compliant & will be place within several of our county parks. After conducting an inventory of picnic tables it was determined there was a need to replace many of the picnic tables because, 1) of their poor condition, & 2) not being accessible for all park users as clearly indicated in the recently authorized, completed, & approved Site Accessibility Evaluation Report for each County Park. The picnic tables will be assembled by volunteer labor.	\$ 3,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (1000) William R. Lathers Golden Township Fund (1200) Oceana County Parks & Trails Fund (800)
Pentwater Historical Society	Building Stories	The Building Stories project will take history into the village. We will create, print, and install panels in businesses around downtown Pentwater that tell the story of a building and other sites around the village and the township. The artwork will be done by Libby VanderPloeg, while the research and historical text will be written by Pam VanderPloeg. Both Pam and Libby have ties to Pentwater, and their expertise has been acknowledged and awarded in multiple places. Printing and installation hardware supplies are for up to twenty indoor installations of panels, sized 3'x4', and additional 1'x2' panels, or as needed to meet the needs of the business owner.	\$ 1,000.00	Little Point Sable - Arts for Oceana County Fund (500) Community Investment Fund (500)

Pentwater Lake Association Inc	Pentwater River Watershed Household Survey	The State recommends a public survey as the first step in a Watershed Management Plan. The survey will help to derive information, to educate, and to stimulate public participation. Such surveys can serve to stimulate thought in the community about environmental issues associated with the watershed, a first step to promoting public advocacy. Funding will be used for the completion of a Pentwater River Watershed mail survey of approximately 850 households within the county. The survey is the first step in achieving local and State of Michigan support for doing future watershed activities. The watershed needs a voice and this is the first step. The Pentwater River Watershed is more than 75% in Oceana County. A new watershed layer in the ARC-GIS system now used by the county allows us to identify the households in the watershed.	\$ 2,500.00	Eugene Kuhne Fund (1000) Community Investment Fund (1500)
Ronald McDonald House Charities West Michigan	Family Support Program 2023	When the best treatment for a critically ill child takes a family far from home, Ronald McDonald House Charities West Michigan eliminates worry and financial burdens by providing a free place to stay. In addition to lodging, we provide compassionate hospitality through food, transportation, and other amenities. Our goal is to provide parents, caregivers, and siblings of pediatric patients a place of respite and opportunities for self-care. The average cost per night per family is \$195. In 2022, we served 8 families from Oceana County for a combined total of 175 nights, or approximately \$34,000 spent on families from Oceana County. Funding from Oceana County Community Foundation will contribute to our Care & Comfort Fund, which covers the cost of running the House, food, lodging, transportation, and other services and amenities provided by RMHC West Michigan.	\$ 3,000.00	Oceana Youth Fund (3000)
Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce	Banners Downtown	In 2022 only 4 light pole banners were able to be displayed in Downtown Shelby per season due to the extreme disrepair of the legacy seasonal banners left behind by the previous Chamber board members. As many know, the chamber nearly disbanded due to loss of interest from our business owners and community residents. The new chamber board aims to change that, by energizing the community with small town pride and putting their dues and our time into making Shelby shine again. New banners throughout downtown coupled with the new planters the village has secured will give Shelby area residents something to be proud of.	\$ 5,000.00	Sparks/Ryan Memorial Fund (5000)
Shelby Public Schools	Shelby Middle School Library Support Project	The Reading Assessment and Methods class of West Shore Community College, instructed by Professor Sean Henne, is collaboratively writing this grant to support the Shelby Middle School Library. We are doing this at the behest of Shellie Dorman, Shelby Middle School's Special Education Professional, who is a member along with Professor Henne of the area Literacy Network, a joint venture between the College and the WSESD. Our goal for writing this grant is to supply the Shelby Middle School library with various quality books that will support and enhance teaching Social Studies, especially History, and Geography, to Shelby Middle School students. We aim to dramatically increase Shelby Middle School's ability to effectively teach Social Studies and Geography through different kinds of literature.	\$ 1,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (750) Gary & Mary Ann Peterson "Grandpa & Grandma Pete" Memorial Fund (250)
TrueNorth Community Services	Oceana County Hunger Prevention Programs	TrueNorth Community Services Hunger Prevention programs works to ensure children, families, and seniors living in Oceana County have dependable access to nutritious food and food education in order to lead active, healthy lives. Grant funds will be used to purchase food to support the Weekend PowerPacks program, providing weekly emergency food for 400 K-12 children, and the TrueNorth Food Pantry which distributes 14 days worth of food to households based on size.	\$ 5,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation (1000) Healthy Youth, Healthy Seniors Fund (1000) Communtiy Investment Fund (500) Gail Paulus Family Fund (2500)
West Shore Educational Service District	inspiREading in Oceana County	Our team is also looking to expand our programming into the middle grades by providing two free, high-interest books to 6th-8th grade students of Oceana County to take home for the summer with adult-guided discussion opportunities provided throughout the summer. In coordination with local educators, we plan to develop research-aligned resources to distribute to students as well as develop book discussion protocols for facilitators. In addition, they will receive a notebook, writing utensils, and an invitation to attend a virtual book club meeting throughout the summer facilitated by area teachers or the literacy specialist. Students will also be offered an opportunity for US mail correspondence in the event they do not have access to appropriate technology for virtual meetings or would rather not participate in virtual discussions.	\$ 5,000.00	Gary & Mary Ann Peterson "Grandpa & Grandma Pete" Memorial Fund (5000)