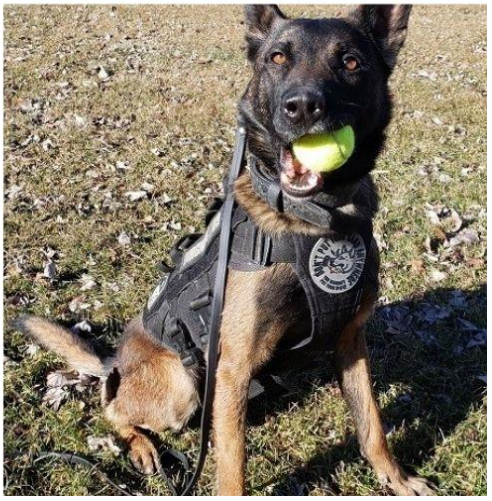
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR OCEANA COUNTY

on the GROW

2021 SPRING COMMUNITY GRANT CATALOG

community foundation Oceana County

GIVING TOGETHER



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR OCEANA COUNTY

2021 SPRING COMMUNITY GRANT CATALOG

GIVING TOGETHER

The Community Foundation for Oceana County's grantmaking committees are currently reviewing grant proposals from non-profit organizations serving Oceana County.

We are inviting our donor advisors to partner with us to stretch our limited competitive grant resources and serve more community needs. If you would like to fully, or partially fund, any of these proposals through your Fund, you may advise a grant by contacting us:

Tammy Carey, tammy@oceanafoundation.org
Danielle Siegel, danielle@oceanafoundation.org
Or call the office at 231.869.3377

Please make grant recommendations by Wednesday, May 12th
to help our grant review committee to make decisions with other resources in mind.

We thank you for your support!

Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters (COVE)

To ensure comprehensive sexual assault services in Oceana County.

Amount requested: $5,000| Total program cost: $180,944 | Partially funded: $2,500

COVE's project description is two-fold, as services are vastly intertwined with one another. The project includes funding for their Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. SANE allows for 24/7/365 access to a forensic sexual assault nursing examination for all survivors of sexual assault. This service is incredibly important to Lake, Mason, Manistee, and Oceana Counties as COVE is the only program that provides these services in this area of Michigan. Additional services include individual advocacy, legal advocacy, counseling, healing arts group therapy as well as traditional group therapy. Sexual assault can affect someone throughout their lifetime, and without adequate support it deeply affects the survivor and ultimately the community. COVE is seeking funding for the broad scope of services offered in order to change the lives of survivors and the communities that they live in. The grant award would support SANE nurses ($3,000); medicine, evidence bags, and comfort items ($1,500); professional liability insurance for SANE nurses ($250); and client assistance ($250).

Golden Township

To install safety surfacing for the playground in two Golden Township Parks.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $10,164 | Partially funded: $3,000

Installation of safety surfacing for the playground will allow access to the playground for persons with disabilities. This project will also provide many hours of safe play for residents and the many visitors to the Silver Lake Area. The surfacing would be installed in Johnson Square in Mears and the Golden Township Park near the Silver Lake Sand Dunes. The safety surfacing is ADA approved, and will last for many years. It is a great investment for both local and visiting kids. The total grant award would go towards purchasing supplies and materials for the project ($5,000).

Harbor House Ministry

To replace dining room windows.

Amount requested: $4,000 | Total project cost: $5,010

Since 2014, the Harbor House ministry has been continually upgrading its residence with various remodel projects (with hundreds of hours of volunteer labor) to create an efficient, beautiful and sustainable home to continue serving local women for years to come. Harbor House's current target audience for residents are young women ages 18-25, who are housing or relationally challenged. Harbor House serves up to six women at a time as live-in program participants. For each participant the program will run approximately 6-18 months; this is a program they are personally agreeing to participate in. Harbor House Ministry's replacement project would be for the dining room windows. It is a key room in the house where participants eat meals, celebrate holidays and special events and serve the community through hospitality gatherings. Harbor House's end goal is to continue to upgrade this home for peak operating efficiency, making sure that every upgrade is done with excellence so the investment will last for many years to come. The grant award would provide for professional window installation and its warranty ($4,000).

Hart Historic District & Museum

To purchase a tour guide program for their historic museum.

Amount requested: $1,500| Total project cost: $1,500 | Fully funded: $1,500

Hart Historic District & Museum's goal is to provide a better guide system for their visitors to use as they go through their district/museum. This system would allow visitors to use their cell phone to receive a guided tour. By dialing a number and following the directions, visitors can receive information about each display. This project would allow the Hart Historic District & Museum to move more people safely through the district/museum without tour guides. Tour guides can only move one group at a time, while this system allows numerous individuals to go on their own and learn about each display. The grant award would purchase the tour guide system ($1,500).

Hesperia Community Schools

To give books to children and foster literacy motivation/engagement.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $6,195 | Fully funded: $5,000

A book vending machine provides many opportunities to place a book into the hands of students. This works like any other traditional vending machine, except it runs strictly on tokens. The shelves will be stocked with chapter books, picture books, nonfiction and fiction choices, graphic novels, and much more. The machine will be decorated with the district's mascot, the Hesperia Panther! Hesperia Community Schools will utilize their monthly themes (empathy, responsibility, kindness, etc.) as a way to earn a token. The district also plans to utilize goal setting as a way to earn tokens. Goals could be something as simple as a student meeting their goal on the MAPS test, reaching a benchmark in reading, or reaching a specific number of Accelerated Reader tests, even handing out a token on birthdays. This project will serve approximately 400 K-5th grade students each year. Unfortunately, not many students have books at home. Being able to take home their very own books from the book vending machine will be a special moment for any child, and best of all, they will have a book to bring home and READ! The grant award would go towards the cost of the book vending machine ($5,395).

New Era Christian Reformed Church/New Era Farmers' Market

To reimburse vendors for produce purchased with tokens.

Amount requested: $2,000 | Total project cost: $2,700 | Fully funded: $2,000

The New Era Farmers' Market are seeking funding for the Kids Power of Produce (KPOP) Club and the Senior Power of Produce (SPOP) program at all six Farmer's Markets in 2021. At the Club, kids aged 4-12 participate in exercise segments, stories and fun activities. They are entered into drawings for prizes and awarded a $2 token to use to purchase produce. In 2020, the New Era Farmers' Market served 74 children and redeemed 72 tokens amounting to $144 in free produce. The Senior Power of Produce program serves seniors aged 62+. In 2020, 331 seniors participated in redeeming $1,475 in tokens. The vendors are reimbursed for all tokens following each market. This program will improve diets by giving people access to more fruits and vegetables.

Oceana Christian School
Character • Faith • Education

Oceana College Access Network (OCAN)

To provide high school juniors opportunities to explore college and career pathways.

Amount requested: $3,000| Total project cost: $55,306 | Partially funded: $2,000

Oceana College Access Network supports 11th grade students' exploration of career options and educational pathways. In Oceana, 60% of seniors enroll in after-high school education within one year after high school, but only 33% complete a degree/credential within 6 years of graduation. OCAN works to provide these students opportunities to explore, to receive guidance, and to ensure preparedness for application processes that happen during their senior year. Grant funds would help support OCAN's Career Compass Mentoring program and Students in the Workplace. The Career Compass Mentoring program connects local businesses with students, providing insight into possible careers, professional skills, and higher education. OCAN's Students in the Workplace program provides high school students job shadowing opportunities to learn about different career pathways. Offering Oceana students support and guidance as they explore career pathways helps prepare them for life after graduation. The grant award would support the purchase of supplies and materials ($3,000) for Oceana CAN!'s programs.

Oceana Christian School

To support the training of a future therapy dog to engage Pre-K-8th students.

Amount requested: $2,000| Total project cost: $2,000 | Partially funded: $1,500

The Cassie for Kids program refers to Cassie, a 4 ½ month old golden doodle puppy who spends weekdays in the school office. Cassie brings smiles to the students and spreads joy in their building! Oceana Christian School's dream is that Cassie will become a trained therapy dog that offers emotional, social and physical support for preschool through middle school children on a large-scale. Cassie is already a well-mannered and friendly dog, but a training program and certification would allow her to act as a school therapy dog. The grant would invest in the coaching needed for her to be a useful therapy dog for the 100 people at Oceana Christian School. This project will be beneficial for a wide range of ages and will be sustainable, as Cassie would continue to assist in improving students' mental health as she befriends them. Already, both staff and students stop by the office several times a day to pet and talk to Cassie. Research shows that people perceive dogs as non-judgmental friends that support their emotional needs in a non-threatening way. After the stress and trauma of 2020, what a huge gap that could fill! The grant would provide for veterinarian bills associated with training ($150), Cassie's board and training in Traverse City ($1,800), and the Canine Good Citizen's Test ($50).

Oceana Conservation District

To support a nature-based education program to local pre-school students.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $40,000 | Fully funded: $5,000

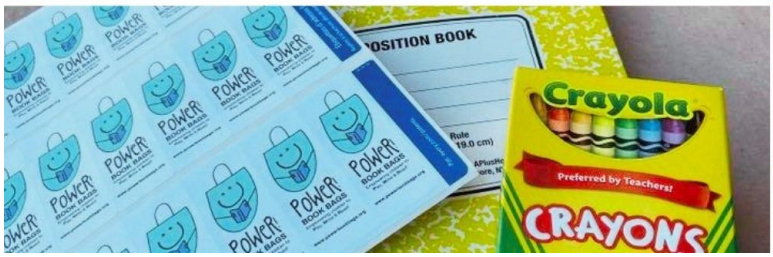
Oceana Conservation District is currently developing a nature-based preschool program. Following a successful spring 2021 pilot program (in progress) the Oceana Conservation District plans to offer its Knee-High Naturalists Forest School program for the 2021/2022 school year. The current pilot program is for children ages 3-5 with an accompanying adult and meets for two hours, two mornings a week. The potential plan for Fall 2021 is to explore expanding the current program model to include an extended three-hour program for older children (ages 5+). Learning to connect with nature at this young age builds the foundation for a lifelong passion and respect for the natural world. School readiness skills as well as social and emotional well-being are highlighted through music and movement, story and song, nature crafts and imaginative play. Grant funds from the Community Foundation would enable the Conservation District to continue to build the infrastructure of the Knee-High Naturalist program as well as purchase both consumable and non-consumable learning materials and supplies. The grant award would fund the purchase of equipment ($3,000) and educational supplies ($2,000).

Oceana County Parks and Recreation (OPRC)

To purchase new picnic tables for Cedar Point and Doolittle Parks.

Amount requested: $3,000 | Total project cost: $3,000 | Fully funded: $3,000

After conducting a detailed inventory of picnic tables within the 8 Oceana county parks, the Oceana County Parks and Recreation determined many need to be replaced. They would like to purchase 10 new picnic tables to provide a safer and a more enjoyable leisure experience. The opportunity to purchase new picnic tables, that will be located at Cedar Point & Doolittle Parks, benefits county residents and visitors. At Cedar Point Park, the picnic tables will be placed on the new accessible deck being built by OCPRC volunteers. Currently, there are no picnic tables. At Doolittle Park, the picnic tables will be placed in the new pavilion through the donation of materials and volunteer labor. Providing adequate & safe picnic tables to the county park system endorses a safe & healthy experience for individuals of all ages. With new picnic tables, both parks can offer a wide range of recreational programs relating to nature. Tables are a major piece of equipment for hosting & providing a learning environment for outdoor programs for all ages. The grant would cover table & assembly cost ($300 per table). **Sponsor a table or two?**



Power Book Bags (PBB)

To provide literacy materials to youth in Oceana County.

Amount requested: $800 | Total project cost: $892 | Fully funded: $1,600

PoWeR! Books Bags will provide literacy materials, including books and tools to encourage language building, to low-income families in Oceana County. PBB will distribute books bags with literacy materials and a minimum of 436 books to 50 children through partnerships with Foster Care and the Early Head Start Home Visiting program. In 2019, Oceana County had a 61% failure rate on the M-STEP, a test that measures 3rd grade reading proficiency. 3rd grade reading proficiency is an important benchmark of future outcomes, including graduation and long-term economic security. Research also shows that owning as few as 20 books has a significant impact on propelling a child's education forward. Children who own 100 books are more likely to graduate from high school and attend trade school or college. When a home's print materials increase, the culture of the home shifts to one more supportive of education. The grant would support the purchase of supplies/materials like books, book bags, finger puppets, and crayons ($800).

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA)

To preserve the Little Sable Point Lighthouse Tower.

Amount requested: $1,600 | Total project cost: $3,200 | Fully funded: $3,200

The mission of the Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association is to preserve, promote and educate the public and to make the lighthouses accessible to all. The goal of this project is to restore the smaller window frames and interior shutters on the four small rectangular windows and on the arched windows near the top of Little Sable Point Tower. Currently the frames are rotting due to age and the window shutters are in need of replacement as well. In restoring the windows, SPLKA will fabricate the frames and windowsills to match what is currently there so that they will be historically accurate. The glass panels will be reglazed and installed in the new frames. Little Point Sable welcomes over 25,000 visitors annually who visit and climb the 130 steps up to the most spectacular views of Lake Michigan and the Silver Lake dunes. The new window frames will make sure that the tower is secure and the window openings will remain sealed for the next century. The grant award would be divided into supplying the salary ($200) and materials ($800) needed to build the shutters and frames, reglazing and reconditioning glass panels ($400), and installing the panels into the new frames ($200).

Shelby Township

To improve the façade of the Shelby Township Building and surrounding landscape.

Amount requested: $2,000 | Total project cost: $8,000

Shelby Township Office Façade Improvement Project will entail painting the building's exterior, replacing/fixing awnings, installing a wall flagpole, purchasing an American flag, and installing benches for community residents. These items will help lead the way to a façade improvement of the Township and encourage other businesses to invest in the community and its residents. The Shelby Township Board has set the goal to rehabilitate the community by enhancing the appearance of building façades. Shelby Township is working to improve its economic viability through increased property values, marketability, and to attract businesses and residents to the area. The Township will start by improving the exterior façade of the Township building. In turn, the expectation is to encourage other businesses and property owners to restore or rehabilitate buildings and properties, maintain or enhance the architectural heritage of the commercial district and encourage investments in properties. Restoring the appeal & image of the downtown is a desired state for all. The grant award would cover the partial cost of supplies ($2,000) such as paint, awning and benches.

TrueNorth Community Services

To promote housing stability for ALICE population in Oceana County.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $294,848 | Fully funded: $5,000

Since 2019, TrueNorth has provided housing services and resources to the Oceana community. Through this service provision, True North has been able to facilitate funding through MSHDA, MDHHS, HUD and other resources. The current funding is restricted by grant guidelines and eligibility requirements and includes barriers that often exclude those in the ALICE population. This grant would provide flexible gap funding that would address the needs of low-income families that are not eligible for funding through the state and federal grants. This grant funding would provide security deposits, first month's rent, gas cards, application fees, delinquent utilities and rental assistance. Rental assistance would be provided to prevent eviction for those who are unable to utilize current prevention programs. Security deposits and first month's rent are often a large lump sum that can be a barrier that prevents low-income households moving into units. During a housing search, households often fill out applications that require application fees. These fees can create a barrier that prevents households from completing and turning in applications. Delinquent utilities can prevent households from being able to move into a unit because they are unable to get the utilities turned on. The grant would support these different assistance programs ($5,000).

The Village of Shelby

To fund two signs and a shade structure for the pocket park.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $6,000 | Fully funded: $5,000

The Village of Shelby recently purchased a vacant lot in downtown Shelby that will be upgraded into a pocket park. This pocket park will not only serve as accessible greenspace for sociable activities, but also as a connector from the main downtown to the Hart-Montague Trail State Park. Shelby is a diverse and growing community, with 2,046 residents. This park will be a space for all genders, ages, ethnic backgrounds, and physical capabilities. The result of this project is an inclusive greenspace that serves the community as a place to socialize, reflect, and provide a connection to the downtown and Hart-Montague Rail Trail. Before the result can be accomplished, the pocket park needs to undergo major renovations and upgrades. The Village has the means of supplying the park with a walkway and picnic tables but needs more support to make the park fully functional. The Village would purchase a park welcome sign and wayfinding sign that lists Shelby's downtown businesses and points of interest. Windridge Sign Shop in Shelby quoted the two signs for $400. In addition to the two signs, the grant would also support a shade structure that protects the picnic tables from sun, wind, and rain. A new shade structure will cost around $4,300.

Walkerville Thrives

To provide Zoom and video exercise classes to area residents.

Amount requested: $450 | Total project cost: $450 | Fully funded: $450

The Old School Recreation Center (TOSRC) is bringing an exercise and health center to the Walkerville area. The Center is housed in a classroom of the former elementary building. TOSRC is a project of Walkerville Thrives, a non-profit community development group. Thrives serves the Village of Walkerville and the surrounding rural area which is made up largely of low-income families fitting the ALICE profile: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. TOSRC will serve all residents with program offerings based on need and interest. TOSCR is seeking funds to purchase a television for Zoom and video exercise classes, a DVD player to use with the television, and an audio voice amplifier for instructors to use when in person classes are possible. This equipment will be used to collaborate with Lakeside Family Fitness. Instructors from Lakeside will teach classes virtually to small groups at the Center. By building relationships virtually, the number of participants is expected to increase for in person classes held in the future. The Center anticipates serving 10-12 people each week. The grant award would purchase the equipment ($450) needed for virtual fitness classes.

IN 2020, NEARLY $60,000 WAS AWARDED IN COMPETITIVE GRANTS! GROWING SUPPORT FROM OUR DONOR ADVISORS HAS EXPANDED OUR GRANT AWARDS FROM $45,000 IN 2019.

West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.

To develop the landscape around the Research Station

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $19,000 | Fully funded: $5,000

The West Central Michigan Horticultural Research Station is currently working on the landscape around the Station. This project will furnish the irrigation and flower beds needed to enhance the landscape and reduce soil erosion. The irrigation will include a sprinkler system that is controlled automatically to maximize water usage with a reduction of water waste. Flower beds will be placed and planted with native Michigan Perennial plants and flowers to assist in the reduction of soil erosion around structural buildings and sidewalks along with the beautification of the landscape. This will serve as an educational tool for the community about native Michigan plants, but also to reduce soil loss and wasting natural resources. The Research Station is open to the public, schools, other non-profits, growers, and industry stakeholders. The grant award would partially cover the cost of an irrigation and sprinkler system ($5,000).

West Shore Community College

To provide camp scholarships for Oceana County students.

Amount requested: $5,000 | Total project cost: $38,098 | Fully funded: $5,000

College for Kids is a week-long event will allow kids (ages 9-15) from the four counties within West Shore Community College's service district (i.e., Lake, Oceana, Manistee, Mason) to choose from a wide range of courses that are linked to one or more of the 17 Career Clusters. Each course will involve a hands-on project that culminates into a tangible product or performance. Studies show the need for more credentialed (i.e., those with some sort of post-secondary education) workers. By getting kids on a college campus, the hope is they will become more familiar and comfortable with the idea of possibly earning a certificate or degree in a career that matches their talents and interests. Investing in the future workforce, through programs like College for Kids, should benefit families, businesses, and the community and make them more impervious to the effects of future crises. The course will explore careers related to the cluster, including guest speakers/professionals in the field, and address Skills for Success (Technology Literacy, Collaboration & Global Thinking, Communication, Critical Thinking& Problem Solving, Flexibility & Adaptability, Ethical Citizenship, Personal Accountability). The end goal is to help students link their talents and interests with career options. The grant award would fund up to 30 scholarships for Oceana students ($5,000).