



Gwen, Development Assistant
Community Foundation for Oceana County
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Gwen is the Development Assistant for the Community Foundation for Oceana County (CFOC), having served in that position since September 2022.

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATION & CAREER BACKGROUND?

I have a Bachelor of Arts in History from Saginaw Valley State University, but spent many years working for the Y organization in Aquatics teaching lifesaving classes and swim lessons for all ages. After graduating I found myself working for the museum field wearing many different hats, including community engagement and events. That's where I really found my passion for sharing the mission with the community. I'm always looking for opportunities to learn from others and working for nonprofits allows for constant improvement and growth just by the connections you make.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO AT THE FOUNDATION?

I am so excited to serve as a Development Assistant! It encompasses so many things, but in general development is about making those connections to help the organization and the people it serves grow. I can't wait to meet members of my community, who want to make a difference and I'm ready to help them do just that!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT OCEANA COUNTY?

We are a diverse community and we are small, but growing rapidly. I love living in a county where it's small enough to run into friends and family, but there is still exciting change happening. This also might be an unpopular opinion, but I love the winter here. Walking downtown in Hart with snow falling, a cup of coffee from Stella's, and plenty of time is my perfect afternoon!

WHAT MIGHT OTHERS NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I collect nutcrackers! At this point in my life I have nearly 60. I love them all, but my favorite is a small nutcracker my mom purchased for me at my very first nutcracker ballet when I was 6.