



2021 Competitive Grants

The Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area is pleased to announce the awarding of 10 grants totaling \$198,377 from the Community's Endowment in 2021.

Arts and Culture

Park Theatre Foundation – Improving Accessibility and Increasing Capacity

Amount Awarded: \$10,877

Purpose: To increase theatre accessibility and capacity as well as improve the comfort and aesthetics of the Green Room.

Why this matters: Park Theatre serves as a unique, centrally located space for a wide mix of different performance artists and community events. Improved accessibility and increased capacity will have a lasting impact on how the Park Theatre serves the community.

Community and Economic Development

City on a Hill Ministries – Burning Bright Campaign

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Purpose: To support critical infrastructure improvements to ensure the City on a Hill facility can continue to provide a safe and affordable collaborative space for community partners for years to come.

Why this matters: City on a Hill offers one of our community's most successful examples of nonprofits co-locating to increase efficiency and effectiveness of their work. The building improvements will ensure the long-term viability of the space for the 35 organizations that currently operate from City on a Hill and future tenants.

Education

Grand Rapids Community College – Lakeshore Campus

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Purpose: To build a consolidated, 21st century, state of the art campus located in Holland to provide Ottawa County residents with higher education and workforce training credentials to provide pathways to well-paid careers in order to create an equitable region where everyone can prosper.

Why this matters: Improving access to community college for the greater Holland/Zeeland area has been a consistent community priority named by numerous cross-sector partner organizations, community groups, and individual community members for more than a decade. Post-secondary education is critical to opening up greater opportunity for career growth and financial stability for more area residents. Community college is often the most accessible pathway for individuals, whether recent high school graduates looking to earn an associate's degree or eventually transfer to a four year institution, or adults looking to re-orient their career path. Having a centralized local campus with room to grow and adapt to changing educational and workforce needs will have a lasting impact for many individuals and their families as well as the community as a whole.



ODC Network – Dragonflies Discovery Preschool

Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Purpose: To construct the new Dragonflies Discovery Preschool to be located on 11 acres in the northeast corner of the land vacated by the Park Township airport. Once complete, the new site will have the capacity to serve 194 students using a nature-based learning model.

Why this matters: Childcare and preschool are pressing needs in our community. They provide critical early education experiences to prepare children for kindergarten, are a major expense in household budgets, and a significant factor in parents' ability to participate in the workforce. The new preschool will have a lasting positive impact for hundreds of children who will have the opportunity to experience nature-based education and its immediate and long-term academic, health and social benefits.

Health

Holland Hospital on behalf of Holland Community Health Center – "Ahead of your Health Pack" Program

Amount Awarded: \$11,349.42

Purpose: To fund "Ahead of your Health" packs providing patients with the necessary home health equipment to monitor their medical conditions with the support of their medical staff.

Why this matters: 68% of Holland Community Health Center patients live at or below the federal poverty level and many also live with chronic or complex health conditions. Too often, patients become the silent partner in their medical care because they lack the proper tools and resources to monitor their own health. "Ahead of Your Health Pack" backpacks will provide patients with medical equipment for home use, empowering them to participate in their well-being alongside their Community Health Center caregivers. The program will reduce unnecessary office visits or fill the gap should patients not have the ability to attend their appointments due to transportation, weather, illness or schedule conflicts, leading to better long-term health outcomes and quality of life for participants.

Human Services

Reach for Recovery (formerly OAR) – Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Purpose: To support start-up costs associated with the launch of a new program that will help save lives by preventing opioid overdose deaths in West Michigan.

Why this matters: Opioid addiction is particularly dangerous and deadly for individuals who suffer from it and often causes significant harm to their families as well. Having local access to evidence-based medication assisted treatment will have life-changing and potentially life-saving impact for these community members.



Seniors

AgeWell Services of West Michigan – Meals on Wheels Ottawa County Meal Delivery Replacement Van

Amount Awarded: \$18,650.58

Purpose: To support the purchase of a replacement cargo van used for Meal on Wheels Lunch and Activity Centers delivery of meals to Ottawa County residents 60 and older.

Why this matters: Meals on Wheels allows families to age in place with dignity by providing a balanced, safe, and consistent diet. Currently, 33 of the 200 Ottawa County residents on the MOW route are Holland/Zeeland residents. AgeWell Services anticipates a 3% increase in community members served with the addition of a new cargo van used for meal delivery in Ottawa County.

Youth

CultureWorks – Office and Studio Space

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Purpose: To establish a new home that will serve as a long-term office and professional studio space, while the organization continues to grow its mobile model of programming in the Holland/Zeeland community.

Why this matters: CultureWorks offers culturally relevant, transformative art and design experiences to youth from all backgrounds to inspire curiosity, develop talent, and build 21st century skills. A dedicated, permanent program space will allow them to expand and deepen this work while also providing a hub from which to continue operating mobile outreach programs in partnership with other community sites.

Escape Ministries – Deeper & Wider Capital Project

Amount Awarded: \$17,500

Purpose: To fund a reconfigured entryway, extended security system, flexible and functional student furniture, fresh paint, interior decor, increased hospitality and functionality of our spaces, and water bottle filling stations, helping set Escape up for its next era of impact, making the community's most vulnerable students and families feel welcomed, valued, uplifted, and empowered by the physical space at Escape.

Why this matters: Escape is focused on serving students who have been suspended or expelled from school, have been involved in gangs, and/or have been involved in the juvenile court system. 80% of the students Escape serves live in poverty and 75% are students of color. Investing in these improvements to Escape's space will have a lasting impact on the quality of experience that the organization provides to the students they serve.



Hand2Hand – Hope in Action Campaign

Amount Awarded: \$40,000

Purpose: Hand2Hand is at a crossroads and needs additional space to say "yes" to more students in need of weekend food. This grant will assist Hand2Hand with the purchase of its first building so that the organization can have additional space to reach more students in need in Holland, Zeeland, and West Michigan as a whole.

Why this matters: Hand2Hand provides food for 1,482 Holland/Zeeland area students in partnership with over 40 local schools. The move to purchase a dedicated building for the first time in the organization's thirteen-year history will have a lasting impact on the organization's capacity to serve children struggling with hunger who receive weekend food through the expansion. Hand2Hand currently has difficulty accepting large food donations due to lack of warehouse/storage space. This new site marks a significant moment for the organization's growth and reach in the community.