

GIVING MATTERS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE HOLLAND/ZEELAND AREA



WINTER 2025

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A NOTE FROM PATRICK CISLER, PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

As we step into a new year, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey that has brought us to this moment. In 2026, CFHZ will celebrate 75 years of serving Holland/Zeeland! This milestone fills me with both gratitude and anticipation for what lies ahead.

Since our founding in 1951, the community foundation has grown with the support of people like you – our donors, nonprofit partners, and community leaders who believe in the power of collective generosity. Together, we've created a legacy of impact that has strengthened the fabric of our community. As we mark this anniversary, we're not just celebrating our past; we're looking forward to the next 75 years of helping Holland/Zeeland thrive.

This commitment to the future is evident in the work already underway. Our Board recently voted to pursue a new set of proactive grant focus areas, building on the success of our proactive grant program that launched in 2022. Over the past few years, this program has helped local nonprofit organizations move the needle on access to mental health care, strengthening families, and reducing learning loss for students. The new proactive grant focus areas are introduced in this newsletter, with an overview of the data that informed these priorities and the impact we hope to create. We're grateful to steward Community's Endowment dollars towards these areas of greatest need in pursuit of a thriving community for all.

As we enter this milestone year, we will also be introducing something special: a refreshed look that honors both our history and our future. This new visual identity reflects who we are today, a grounded, trustworthy institution that has stood alongside this community for three-quarters of a century and will continue to be here for generations to come. You'll start to see our new brand in January – stay tuned!

Whether you're a long-time partner or just getting to know CFHZ, we hope you'll join us in celebrating this anniversary year. Your generosity and support, and our shared commitment to a thriving Holland/Zeeland, make everything we do possible. I look forward to honoring our history and envisioning what we can accomplish together for another 75 years and beyond.



With gratitude,

PATRICK CISLER | PRESIDENT/CEO

SEVEN STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE YOUR CHARITABLE GOALS BEFORE YEAR-END

Our donor services team is here to support your giving, so you have confidence your dollars are making the greatest impact possible. These seven strategies can help you achieve your goals before year-end.

1 REVIEW BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Take a few minutes to review the beneficiaries listed on your retirement accounts, life insurance, and other assets. Naming a charity like the Community Foundation as your primary or secondary beneficiary is an easy way to make a significant future impact at no additional cost to you now.

2 SATISFY REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

If you own a traditional or inherited IRA and haven't yet taken your Required Minimum Distribution for 2025, you can transfer up to \$108,000 directly to charity and avoid paying taxes on the distribution. This tax-savvy strategy is available to all IRA owners beginning at age 70 ½. IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions can benefit any fund at CFHZ except a Donor Advised Fund.

3 LOOK AT YOUR LIFE INSURANCE

Many people discover they have insurance policies they no longer need because their children are now financially independent, their mortgage is paid off, or they have retired. Consider transferring the ownership of an unneeded policy to charity in exchange for a tax deduction.

4 DONATE STOCK

If your portfolio has grown this year, consider the benefits of donating appreciated stock. You'll receive a deduction for the fair market value and also eliminate capital gains taxes, which means more money will go to your favorite causes.

5 BUNCH YOUR GIFTS IN A CHARITABLE FUND

By consolidating multiple years of donations into a single tax year, you can exceed the standard deduction threshold and claim your full tax deduction now, while spreading out grants to your favorite charities over time.

6 UPDATE YOUR ESTATE DOCUMENTS

Review your will, trust and powers of attorney to ensure they reflect your current wishes. You'll achieve the most tax savings by leaving your IRAs to charity and other assets to your family. New rules on inherited IRAs mean your beneficiaries may face a hefty tax burden, but these same assets can go to charity tax-free.

7 THINK ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S GIVING NOW

As you plan your 2026 budget and financial goals, include your charitable giving too. CFHZ offers many creative ways to give - you might be surprised at how much impact you can make.

QUESTIONS?

We're here to help! We encourage donors to first seek the advice of their legal, financial, or tax advisors when considering a gift of non-cash assets. While our team does not offer tax advice, we stay knowledgeable on charitable giving strategies. Contact our donor services team to explore which might work best for you.



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COMMUNITY'S ENDOWMENT

ALWAYS RELEVANT. TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER.

For nearly seventy five years, we have been growing the Community's Endowment to ensure the Holland/Zeeland area will always have philanthropic resources available to respond to our community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities, even as they change. Gifts to the Community's Endowment support our ability to make lasting positive change through grantmaking and efforts to strengthen the local nonprofit sector.

We recognize and thank the following donors who contributed to the Community's Endowment between November 2024 and early November 2025. *We make every effort to ensure donor names are listed correctly. If you have a concern related to this list, please contact our office at 616-396-6590.*

Agritek Industries	Bruce and Cindy Cisler	David and Linda Geerlings
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 Van't Hof
Dirk and Ann VanZalen
Mitchell and Deborah
 Veldheer
Howard and Julie Veneklasen
Alan and Carla Ver Schure
Norman and Lynn VerHage
Jayne VerLee

*Recently deceased



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PAT FLYNN

COMMUNITY'S ENDOWMENT

WHEN PAT FLYNN MOVED TO HOLLAND IN 1998, SHE FOUND SOMETHING SHE HADN'T EXPERIENCED EARLIER IN LIFE:

IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY CONNECTION. Within weeks of arriving, Pat joined a water aerobics class at the Holland Aquatic Center and was welcomed into a group of women who call themselves the Water Lilies. Those friendships continue today, with members meeting weekly for swimming and breakfast.

That early welcome set the pattern for Pat's decades of involvement in the Holland/Zeeland area. Her commitment to community wasn't learned in Holland, though. It developed during her childhood in Iowa, growing up in a family that valued gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Pat describes her parents as quiet givers who each came from prominent families known for their civic-mindedness. "We didn't talk about philanthropy at home, but the model was very present in our lives. I grew up thinking that's what you do; you give and you serve."

Service has been a constant in Pat's adult life. She worked as a guidance counselor in Bangor Public Schools for 21 years, helping students and their families. Since moving to Holland, she's volunteered with Hospice of Holland for 15 years as a bereavement counselor, and joined the Woman's Literary Club, PEO Sisterhood, and Women Who Care, to name a few.



A community event – Art in the Park – sparked a later-in-life journey that grew into an award-winning passion. As she walked around the event, Pat recalls deciding to explore watercolor painting. She signed up for classes at Evergreen Commons, led by Kathy Van Tubbergen, to develop her skills and spent five years honing her craft. Drawing inspiration from her years on a rural homestead, and details she learned from her husband who held a degree in horticulture, Pat was drawn to botanical and organic art. In 2018, she achieved a long-held dream of becoming a signature member of the American Watercolor Society. Signature members are artists accepted into the international show at least three times, a rare feat that places Pat amongst an exclusive group.

Following a familiar pattern, Pat's artistic journey intertwined with her service to the community. She engaged with the Holland Area Arts Council (HAAC) first as an artist, and then as a member of the Board of Directors. She served for a total of six years, including three as President where she assisted the organization in navigating a change in building ownership. She was surprised earlier this year when the organization named a gallery after her – honoring both her talent and her advocacy for the arts community in West Michigan.

Her involvement with HAAC also led Pat to the Community Foundation after the Arts Council received a grant from the Community's Endowment. She became a consistent donor and in 2021 established the Patricia H. Flynn Fund, an Unrestricted Fund that's part of the Community's Endowment. *"Those flexible gifts help organizations step up and meet needs, even as they change and emerge," she says. "I want to make a difference where I can, and I like knowing that my gifts to the endowment benefit the community now and in the future."*

Pat's giving reflects the intersection of her passions and the community organizations that meet those needs. She supports HAAC, the Muskegon Museum of Art, Boys & Girls Club, Resilience, and Outdoor Discovery Center, among others.

As Pat considers her legacy, she thinks beyond the gallery already bearing her name at HAAC. "I want to do as much as possible with the resources I have," she says. But her hopes are straightforward: to be remembered as active in the community and a caring individual - the values she learned growing up in Iowa and found once again in her adopted hometown of Holland.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The flexibility of unrestricted gifts allows CFHZ to use the expertise of our staff and Board to make the best possible investments across all issue areas for generations to come.

Agritek Fund	Helder Family Fund	Jerald H. and Elsie Redeker Family Fund
Raymond and Agnes Amluxen Fund	William G. Herpolsheimer	Sam and Laura Redeker Fund
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Atmosphere Processing Inc. Family & Employee Fund	Don and Norma Hillebrands	Keith Roelofs Unrestricted Fund
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BLD Products, Ltd. Fund	Lester and Vivian Hoogland	Family Fund
George and Sibilla Boerigter	Community Fund	Gary and Linda Speet Community Fund
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Boote Family Fund	Jim and Mary Janssen Fund	TNT Roofing, Inc.
Jack Bouman Community Fund	John and Sally Janssen Family	Townsend Family Fund
Ronald J. and Elizabeth Boven Family Fund	Community Fund	Trendway/George and Lucile Heeringa Fund
Bradford Company Fund	Bruce and Margie Johnson John 15 Fund	USF Holland Inc. Fund
Helen and Fred Bulford Fund	Thelma Johnson Fund	John A. Van Den Bosch Co. Fund
Jim and Martie Bultman Fund	Walter and Marion Jones Fund	Donald J. and Nell Van Dyke Family Fund
Community's Endowment	Jim and Ginger Jurries Family Fund	Mickie Lamb Van Eyl Fund
Edwin Comstock Fund	Kyle and Justin Klingenberg Fund	Vern and Betty Van Kley Family Fund
Elsie A. & Charles F. Conrad Fund	Dan and Jan Koster Community Fund	Gordon and Margaret Van Wylen Fund
Betty D. Cook Fund	Frank D. Kraai Fund	Earle Vande Poel Fund
Robert H. and Elaine K. Cooper Fund	Lamar Construction Company Fund	Ike and Norma "Tanus" Vande Wege Fund
Ronald and Jessie Dalman	Elsie and Bill Lamb Fund	Bill Vanderbilt Fund
Den Herder Family Fund	Arlyn and Marcia Lanting Fund	Van't Hof Family Fund
Colette Volkema DeNooyer and Bob DeNooyer Fund	Macatawa Bank Fund	David and Jayne VerLee Fund
Rick and Elly DeVries Fund	Magna Donnelly Corporation Fund	James M. and Jean K. Watt Fund
Jack and Mary DeWitt Fund	Manpower Fund	Warren and Marcia Westrate Fund
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Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Fund	Charles and Sheila McLean	Marvin Henry and Johanna Kooy
Bernard and Virginia Donnelly Fund	Memorial Fund	Witteveen Fund
Howard and Gertrude Douwstra Charitable Fund	Sharon V. McManus Fund	Worksighted Fund
Doug and Pam Dreyer Community Fund	Bernard and Louise Meeuwsen Fund	Zeeland Lumber & Supply Co. Fund
Michael D. and Mary B. Dykema Family Fund	Metal Flow Corporation Fund	Zessin Family Fund
Marilyn M. Feininger Fund	Glenn and Barbara Meygaard Fund	Daniel and Sally Zwier Fund
Fifth Third Bank Fund	Betty R. Miller Fund	
Patricia H. Flynn Fund	Haans and Anita Mulder Family Fund	
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	John and Ann Query Community Fund	
	Quincy Street, Inc. Fund	
	Harvey and Ruth Rankens Family Fund	

**Bolded text indicates new fund since last listing.*

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

These funds allow donors to benefit from the expertise of CFHZ staff while also allowing them to identify an area of personal interest, such as the arts, economic development, education, environment, health, housing, human services, seniors, or youth.

Clayton and Arlene Bakker Family Fund
Chester and Kathryn Baumann Family Fund
Bouws Family Fund for Recreation and Beautification
Brooks Beverage Management Fund
JoAnne V. and James F. Brooks Fund for Affordable Housing
George E. and Nancy Jean Buskirk Fund
Campbell/Beukema Fund for Children's Services
Children's Medical Fund
Comerica Bank Fund for Housing Assistance
Community Carbon Fund
Charles J. and Loretta M. Cooper Fund
Randall and Catherine Dekker Fund
Douglas and Sandra DeKock Fund for Historic Preservation
David L. Dirkse Youth Fund
Pat and Herb Eldean Fund
David and Sally Farabee Community Fund for Youth & Diversity
Fifth Third Bank Affordable Housing Fund
Fifth Third Bank Fund to Strengthen the Nonprofit Sector
Michael Fitzharris / Martin Dugan Special Needs Fund
Rudy and Kay Frundt Fund for Affordable Housing/Youth
David J and Linda R Geerlings Community Fund
Gentex Corporation Fund for Youth
Gentex Employee Hardship Fund
Goorhouse Family Fund for Youth
Greenway and Natural Resources Fund
Robert G. and Joan T. Hall-Lalley Fund for Affordable Housing
Dick and Ethie Haworth Economic Opportunity Fund
Heinz USA Holland 100 Year Memorial Fund for Children and Families
Holland Zeeland Dental Society Fund for Children's Dental Health
Huntington National Bank Arts and Culture Fund
Huntington National Bank Fund for Affordable Housing and Community Development
Kincaid Family Fund
Paul and Jacki Kleinheksel Fund
Lake Michigan Shoreline Endowment Fund
Lakeshore Children's Health Fund

Lakewood Construction Fund to Strengthen the Nonprofit Sector
Marcia M. and Richard M. Lievense Fund for Arts/ Children
Linway Fund
Bruce and Carla Masselink Fund
Benny and Yo-Yo Mavis Fund for Dignity Enrichment
Metal Flow Corporation Fund to Strengthen the Nonprofit Sector
MillerKnoll Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector Fund
Peirce Family Fund
David P. Roossien Classical Music Fund
SAF-Holland, Inc. Employees Fund for Older Citizens
Barbara B. And David J. Schipper Early Education Fund
Patrick and Sharon Shanahan Fund for Youth
Ben and Judy Smith Fund for the Arts
Suzanne M. and Marvin E. Stawicki Fund
Cornelius J. Steketee Family Education Fund
Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector Endowment Fund
Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector Evaluation Fund
Town & Country Group Fund
Van Haitsma Family Fund
Janet Camp Van Oss Fine Arts Fund
Ron Vander Schaaf Fund for Positive Parenting
Veneeklasen Family Fund
Paul A. VerHage Health Fund
Clark and Shirley Weersing Fund
Wierda and Bosch Foundation Fund for Education
Jim and Gail Wiersma Economic Opportunity Fund
W. K. Kellogg - Holland Youth Fund
W.K. Kellogg - Zeeland Youth Fund
Xylem Water Solutions & Water Technology Fund

**Bolded text indicates new fund since last listing.*

THINKING ABOUT STARTING A FUND?

Donors who give a cumulative total of \$10,000 may choose to establish and name an Unrestricted or Field of Interest Fund as part of the Community's Endowment.

RESPONSIVE GRANTS

Our responsive grants have an open funnel process that allows us to invest in opportunities across a broad range of issue areas. Earlier this year, a total of \$217,000 was distributed to six local nonprofit partners to support initiatives in housing, basic needs, and youth programs.



I AM ACADEMY

PROJECT: Rumble to Rise

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$60,000 over two years

PURPOSE: Rumble to Rise is a transformative program that empowers black and brown students by providing essential communication and leadership development skills. Through mentorship, identity exploration, and mental health support, the program prepares students to step confidently into leadership roles, engage in civic participation, and pursue college and career opportunities.

"This grant empowers us to continue leading with care, responsibility, and bold vision - values that lie at the heart of I AM Academy and the Rumble to Rise project. We believe leadership is rooted in love, shaped by justice, and driven by a deep commitment to community. This support strengthens our capacity to walk alongside young leaders as they navigate their own path, transforming both their lives and the world around them."

- LINDSAY CHERRY, CO-FOUNDER, I AM ACADEMY



HOLLAND AREA ARTS COUNCIL

PROJECT: Essential Arts

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$48,000 over two years

PURPOSE: Expanding the Essential Arts Program that celebrates and focuses on older adults, adults with developmental disabilities, teens and young adults with autism, toddler arts, and a monthly Family Arts Day. The Arts Council programs have become a therapeutic outlet that helps foster a calming, positive atmosphere where class participants can gather, socialize, and express their creativity.

GATEWAY MISSION

PROJECT: Gateway Childcare Program for Homeless Mothers and Children

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$47,000

PURPOSE: To increase the capacity of the Women and Children's shelter and provide much needed childcare, rehabilitation programs, and other support services. These programs help break cycles of poverty and homelessness. Over 300 women and approximately 200 children received shelter and support in 2024, and that number has grown in 2025.

MIGRANT LEGAL AID

PROJECT: Empowering Michigan's Immigrants: Education and Outreach

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$47,000

PURPOSE: To advance and expand existing outreach program and conduct, "Know Your Power" workshops for immigrants in Ottawa County. Based on work done last year, Migrant Legal Aid (MLA) reports approximately 13,000 migrant workers reside in Ottawa County. These workers, predominantly Spanish-speaking, experience geographic isolation, language barriers, poverty, and immigration-related concerns, which complicate their ability to access critical services. The outreach program expansion will help meet the rising demand for support services and legal advocacy in Ottawa County.

"Migrant farmworkers are a vital part of Michigan's agricultural economy. But they often don't have the same protections or access to support that others do. This grant helps us meet farmworkers in an environment that is comfortable for them to have conversations, share information, and help them understand their rights. That kind of support makes a real difference."

- CLARA MANUZZA, COMMUNITY IMPACT COORDINATOR, MIGRANT LEGAL AID

VELO KIDS

PROGRAM: Velo Kids Bike Club Program Expansion

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$10,000

PURPOSE: To further Velo Kids mission of fostering healthy, active lifestyles in children by expanding their successful Bike Club Program and embedding it into local organizations that work with underserved populations. The Velo Kids Bike Club Program aims to reach kids who might otherwise not have the opportunity to ride a bike.





VELO KIDS BIKE CLUB

RESPONSIVE GRANT HIGHLIGHT

FOUNDED IN 2017 BY A GROUP OF BIKE ENTHUSIASTS, VELO KIDS BEGAN WITH A SIMPLE VISION: GET ALL KIDS ON BIKES.

Now a flourishing youth cycling organization, they accomplish that vision by teaching bike skills, bike safety, and trail stewardship to thousands of local children each year. Last year, Velo Kids reached over 3,000 kids. More than 1,000 of those participants experienced biking in an entirely new way, whether it was their first time on a bike, their first time on trails, or the first time having a bike of their own.

For kids without access to bikes or safe places to ride, cycling can feel out of reach. Velo Kids is changing that with its Bike Club program, which provides free riding opportunities to underserved youth and makes biking accessible to all. The program includes multiple 1.5-hour sessions at Riley Trails, using the organization's Shred Shed fleet of high-quality mountain bikes and helmets. Trained coaches guide kids ages 7–18 through a custom curriculum focused on foundational riding skills, safety practices, and trail etiquette. Jenny White, Executive Director, says, "Kids are always excited about how nice the bikes are. The equipment not only improves

their ride, but also shows them they are valued and deserving of great experiences."

Collaboration is at the heart of Bike Club and Velo Kids leadership has been working with an ever-growing group of local youth-focused organizations to expand its reach and make sure every child in Holland/Zeeland with a desire to ride is included. **CFHZ provided a responsive grant to help Velo Kids expand Bike Club.** The organization's original goal was to grow the program from 100 to 150 participants. They closed out the year having more than doubled their goal, with over 300 kids participating through continued and new partnerships. Grant funding also provided 10 new mountain bikes for the Bike Library, 20 helmets, and covered maintenance costs for the older bikes, ensuring every participant had access to reliable equipment.

Jenny shares, *"This grant is opening doors, breaking down barriers, and giving kids the confidence and joy that only biking can bring. We are incredibly grateful for the ability to create such a fun and safe space for our kids to try something new and adventurous. Thank you for believing in the power of bikes!"*

PROACTIVE GRANTS FOR HEALTHY KIDS AND FAMILIES

A safe environment and caring adults are key to a child's ability to thrive. Unfortunately, some local children lack stable homes for a variety of reasons including single parents facing financial challenges, incarcerated parents, or parents who struggle to provide the nurturing their children need. We distributed \$142,000 in proactive grants to increase the consistency of healthy, caring adult presence in local children's lives.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

The Holland/Zeeland Spanish Speaking Life Skills Program

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$60,000 over two years

PURPOSE: Love Your Neighbor will offer a Spanish-speaking life skills program serving up to 75 families annually. The program combines weekly parenting and financial classes with volunteer mentorship, childcare, and practical assistance like groceries and housing help. According to the 2024 Heart of West Michigan United Way Community Assessment, 43% of Hispanic households in Ottawa County struggle financially and face barriers accessing culturally relevant services.

MIDTOWN COUNSELING SERVICES

Family/Parental Engagement in On Site School Counseling for Holland Public Schools

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

PURPOSE: Midtown Counseling Services is expanding their school-based counseling program to focus on caregiver involvement, bringing caregivers into the counseling process and providing parenting classes. The expansion increases Spanish-language services, Medicaid sign-up assistance, and addresses transportation barriers for families facing financial hardship and trauma.

COMMUNITYWORKS

Circles of Support: Strengthening Youth & Families in Holland's South Side

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

PURPOSE: In partnership with Good Samaritan Ministries, CommunityWorks will bring its "Circles of Support" program to Holland's south side. This nationally recognized model reduces poverty through relationship-centered support. Families meet weekly for two years, sharing meals and participating in age-appropriate programming on financial skills, communication, and career readiness.

ARBOR CIRCLE

Increasing Father Friendly Services in Ottawa County

AMOUNT AWARDED: \$22,000

PURPOSE: Arbor Circle will continue to support the Ottawa County Fatherhood Coalition in identifying the needs and barriers for fathers in seeking and engaging with services and increasing opportunities for fatherhood engagement with children in Ottawa County. The Fatherhood Coalition will finish assessing the current needs, gaps, and barriers for fathers in the community and will develop a toolkit and series of trainings to increase father-friendly spaces throughout family serving organizations and businesses.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOLLAND/ZEELAND SPANISH SPEAKING LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

PROACTIVE GRANT SPOTLIGHT

FOR OVER 40 YEARS, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR HAS BEEN A TRUSTED PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST OTTAWA COUNTY.

The organization supports families who fall within the “ALICE” population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These are working individuals who struggle to meet basic needs despite being employed and often face challenges with housing, childcare, food, transportation, and healthcare.

Love Your Neighbor began as a grassroots effort and has grown into a robust family resource center. The organization reaches over 1,800 families annually through integrated services designed to foster long-term stability. The organization recently launched a new Holland/Zeeland-based Spanish Speaking Life Skills Program. **THROUGH OUR PROACTIVE GRANT PROGRAM, CFHZ DISTRIBUTED \$60,000 OVER TWO YEARS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM'S LAUNCH.**

Data from the 2023 Ottawa County Community Assessment shows 43% of Hispanic households and 70% of households led by single mothers live below the ALICE threshold. Access remains a barrier for families seeking support. In just six months, eight families from the Holland/Zeeland area were unable to participate in Life Skills classes offered by Love Your Neighbor due to transportation challenges.

The new Holland/Zeeland-based Spanish Speaking Life Skills Program was created to fill that gap. The program prioritizes equity through a location near bus routes, Spanish-language materials, bilingual staff, and free programming, childcare and meals. This year-long initiative serves Spanish-speaking families through three core components: LEARN (weekly classes in financial literacy, parenting, and healthy relationships), EARN (access to groceries and housing support), and CONNECT (volunteer mentorship).

Collaboration is also key in the program’s success. Area churches have stepped up to provide volunteers, meals, and space for the program.

“This grant from CFHZ is a catalyst for Love Your Neighbor to expand its reach and offer critical services to our Spanish-speaking neighbors, in their own neighborhood. This locality is something we believe is critical to the personal success and real transformation for each participant in our Life Skills Program, and we are grateful for this strong foundation as we work to carry out our mission and strengthen families in the Holland/Zeeland community,” says Jodi Cole Meyer, Executive Director of Love Your Neighbor.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROACTIVE GRANT PRIORITIES

Our proactive grant program is specifically designed to address persistent challenges in Holland/Zeeland. Beginning in 2026, we are launching a new set of proactive grant focus areas. These priorities reflect our learnings from the past three years, community data, and input from local nonprofit and civic leaders.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Supporting students in early childhood to build strong reading and math skills, investing in after school and summer learning programs, and reengaging students who are missing too much school.

- Early intervention prevents gaps from persisting and widening, setting children on a strong path in life.
- After-school and summer programs help students catch up and stay on track.
- Strategies that improve attendance and re-engage students boost academic outcomes and long-term success.

FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Strengthening local families who are struggling to afford basic needs like housing and childcare, and offering career growth opportunities for future financial stability. Almost 37% of Ottawa County households earn above the poverty line but still struggle to afford basic necessities.

- Housing is the largest cost burden and the leading cause of financial instability.
- Childcare directly impacts workforce participation.
- Helping individuals access higher-paying, stable employment builds long-term financial stability for their family.

INCREASING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ensuring everyone in Holland/Zeeland can access professional mental health care by helping to expand the availability of services and reducing barriers to care.

- Mental health remains one of the most pressing and complex challenges facing individuals and families in the Holland/Zeeland area.
- Data from the 2023 Ottawa County Community Health Needs Assessment and the 2023 Youth Assessment Survey show that disparities in ability to access care continue to affect youth, single parents, and individuals of color.
- Addressing mental health not only improves individual well-being but also supports educational attainment, workforce participation, and family stability – all core pillars of a thriving Holland/Zeeland.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR
GRANTMAKING, PLEASE CONTACT

Yadah V. Ramirez | Director of Community Impact | yramirez@cfhz.org

2025 CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

Our community continues to show up in a big way for our annual Celebration of Philanthropy event, and we gratefully welcomed a record 880 guests this year! Our theme of Shared Stories, Shared Impact inspired us to honor Bruce and Margie Johnson and Single Momm, and Peg Van Grouw and Holland Educational Foundation. Together, we celebrated the collective impact that is possible when charitable individuals and nonprofit organizations work together to create a thriving community for all.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE VIDEOS FROM THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY



VENDOR SPOTLIGHT: NADINE'S FISH TIPS N WINGS

We are grateful to the restaurant and bar partners, like Nadine's, who help make our Celebration of Philanthropy event possible.

“

This was our second year as a restaurant partner at the Celebration of Philanthropy. We appreciate the hard work and meticulous organization of the CFHZ team for this event. It motivates us as chefs to consistently bring our best teams and showcase our talents through creative cooking.”

- LARRY BROTHERS, OWNER

STRENGTHENING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

Our local nonprofits are critical to our ability to create a fully thriving community. Recognizing their vital role, CFHZ invests in efforts to support nonprofit leaders and organizations with the resources, information, and people to do their best work. This year, we invested over \$230,000 in strengthening the nonprofit sector, including operational support for our partner, the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance, and funding for the following initiatives.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Supporting the LEAD 24/7 program offered by Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance (LNA). This twelve-month immersive opportunity for individuals in a leadership position helps them develop their skills, strengthening their organization and our nonprofit ecosystem.

EXECUTIVE TRANSITIONS

Assisting nonprofit organizations with transition costs associated with changes in executive leadership. This may include hiring an interim director, working with a search firm, or executive coaching and professional development for the new leader.

COMMUNITY DATA AND COLLABORATION

Supporting Heart of West Michigan United Way's community assessment process, which yields important longitudinal data on how our community is faring in key measures of health, education, basic needs, and financial stability. We also supported Project HOME, a collaboration between nonprofit partners addressing the growing number of unhoused/unsheltered individuals in Holland/Zeeland.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Providing nonprofits with matching funds as they engage consulting services to improve their operations. This year, we added a "Learning from Others" scholarship. Through this, nonprofits can apply for funding to visit peer organizations or attend national conferences to bring innovative ideas back to our community.



LAKESHORE NONPROFIT ALLIANCE (LNA) is a key partner in efforts to strengthen the local nonprofit sector. LNA recently welcomed a new Executive Director, Kory Plockmeyer, who will lead the organization into its next chapter. Kory previously served as Executive Director of Movement West Michigan for four years.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance and energized by the work already underway. Each day I see the extraordinary impact of our local nonprofits as they serve our community. We see firsthand that strong leadership, steady operational practices, and collaborative efforts across organizations can shape real change in our community. I am thankful for the partnership of the Community Foundation, and I look forward to continuing this work alongside our members as we deepen relationships, strengthen organizations, and expand the good that is already happening along the Lakeshore."

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are the fastest growing giving vehicle in the nation! When you contribute to your fund, you receive an immediate tax deduction and the flexibility to recommend grants to your favorite charitable organizations over time. CFHZ staff does the work of administering the grants. A DAF at CFHZ also allows you the opportunity to engage your children as advisors during your lifetime and beyond, passing along your family legacy, values, and the joy of giving.

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Dave and Jane Armstrong Fund
Asselin Family Giving Fund
Bekkering-Van Dorp Donor Advised Fund
Bob and Karrie Bishop Family Fund
BMD Fund
Ryan Boerman Legacy Fund
Dan and Kate Bolt Family Fund
David and Kimberly Bolt Family Fund
John and Nancy Bolt Fund
Bosch Charitable Fund
John and Sharon Bouma Fund
Thomas and Teresa Bouwens Family Fund
Tom and Ulli Bowen Family Fund
Benjamin and Phyllis Bowmaster Family Fund
Judson A. and Kirby Bradford Advised Fund
The Brooks Family Fund
Brooks Family Community Fund
Scott and Amanda Brooks Family Advised Fund
Brown Family Fund
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Communities Fund
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Stephanie and James Edewaard Gift Fund
Alan R. and Marcia J. Elgersma Fund
Kathy and Wayne Elhart Fund
Wayne Elhart Be NICE Memorial Fund
Enviro-Clean Services Fund
EV Construction Co Advised Fund
David and Sally Farabee Advised Fund for
Youth & Diversity
First National Bank of Michigan Charitable Fund
Franz Family Fund
Frauenheim Family Fund
Judy Gaydos Advised Fund
Geenen DeKock Properties Fund
David J and Linda R Geerlings Advised Fund
Scott and Jaclyn Geerlings Family Fund
Tom and Joan Genzink Family Fund
Tim and Jodi Gerrits Advised Fund
Gethin Family Fund
Gezon Family Fund
GMB Architecture + Engineering Advised Fund
Daniel and Deborah Goris Advised Fund
Don and Emilie Goris Family Fund
George and Nancy Goris Fund
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Angela M. and Mark K. Harder Family Fund
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Matthew and Jennifer Haworth Family Advised Fund
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Helder Family Community Fund
Bill and Maria Hoekstra Family Fund
Jacqueline Hoover Charitable Fund For Women &
Women's Issues
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HYP Fund
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Komo Cup Fund
Kooiker Family Fund
Larry & Jeanie Koops Family Fund
Calvin and Julie Kortman Advised Fund
Joyce Kortman Advised Fund
Dan and Jan Koster Family Fund
Lakeshore Economic Development Endowment Fund
Lakewood Cares
Leading by Design - Kingdom Leader Development Fund
Lori and Matt Lepard Advised Fund
Jim and Sarah Lilly Foundation
Andrew P.D. Linn Legacy Fund
Bruce and Deb Los Family Fund

LVZ, Inc. Fund
 Maat Family Giving Fund
 Ann Maguire Family Fund
 Douglas Maguire Family Fund
 Marsilje Family Fund
 Martin Family Fund
William and Shirley Martinus
 Mavis Family (LALA) Fund
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 Kevin and Kathy McDowell Family Fund
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 ODL, Inc. Employee Matching Fund
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 OHU Fund
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 Doug and Nancy Padnos Family Community Fund
 Jeffrey and Margaret Padnos Family Community Fund
 Shani and Jonathan Padnos Family Foundation
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 Mark and Karen Pearson Fund
 Timothy J. Pennings Advised Fund
PEOPLEIT Community Fund
 Paul R. and Jane Ponitz Family Fund
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Brad and Jenny White Fund
 Charles and Shannon Wierda Family Fund
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**Bolded text indicates new fund since last listing.*

INTERESTED IN OPENING A DONOR ADVISED FUND?
 CONTACT OUR DONOR SERVICES TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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YOUR GIFT, ALWAYS RELEVANT: TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER

For nearly seventy five years, CFHZ has been dedicated to ensuring a thriving community for all. **Your gift to the Community's Endowment ensures that we can continue to grow, responding to promising opportunities and pressing needs for generations to come.**

**Please note these important year-end gifting reminders. The CFHZ office will be open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31.*

STOCK GIFTS: Shares must be received into a CFHZ brokerage account **before 4 p.m. E.S.T. on December 31** to be receipted as a 2025 gift. It is recommended that you discuss this early in December with your broker, as processing times vary. The gift is not completed until CFHZ receives the funds.

CREDIT CARD GIFTS: Whether received online, by mail, or by phone, credit cards must be charged by **midnight on December 31 within the time zone the gift was made** to be receipted as a 2025 gift.

CHECK GIFTS: If you mail a check, the envelope must be **postmarked by December 31** to be receipted as a 2025 gift.

GIFTS BY WIRE TRANSFER: Gifts of cash must be received via cash wire transfer into a CFHZ bank account by **4 p.m. on December 31** to be receipted as a 2025 gift.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 will be a banner year for CFHZ as we celebrate 75 years of impact in Holland/Zeeland. Mark your calendars now for our two signature events!

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

05/21/2026

Holland Civic Center

CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

09/10/2026

ME Yacht Restoration



Horizon Bank's sponsorship of this newsletter is one of many ways we are involved in the Holland/Zeeland community. By meeting this goal of the Bank, we are also able to further the Foundation's mission for our community to thrive today, tomorrow, and forever.

Special thanks to our printing partner:

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