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**Charlevoix County Community Foundation
Youth Advisory Committee Distributes \$13,000 in Grants**

The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity. Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), British politician and author. In 1992 the Charlevoix County Community Foundation established the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), empowering young people in Charlevoix County to make a difference in their communities. Recently the YAC distributed \$13,000 in grants among six local nonprofit agencies offering programs that benefit youth.

The Youth Advisory Committee is made up of 16 high school students representing Beaver Island, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan and Northwest Academy. Twice each year these young people are faced with the challenge of determining how distributions from the Youth Fund can best be used to add value to the lives of young people residing in Charlevoix County. "Our Youth Advisory Committee is very excited to make very important decisions to better help the youth in our area. Money is tight in our economy right now so helping nonprofit organizations is a big job. With the needs growing, so are our responsibilities as YAC members," commented Kiersten Bielas, a junior at Boyne Falls High School, and YAC member.

"Members of the Youth Advisory Committee are very mindful when making decisions and a lot of thought and heart goes into the discussions that lead to determining the awards to grantees," stated Jennifer Booher, the Community Foundation's YAC Program Associate. "The students do a great job, and each school's advisors are really helpful too," she added.

YAC grant awards from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation's Youth Fund for the fall grant cycle include:

- Camp Daggett** – For scholarships for the adventure education program
- Crooked Tree Arts Council** – For percussion instruments for the Youth Orchestra
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan** – For a behavioral screening tool for children ages 0-5
- The Manna Project** – For supplies for the "Backpacks for Kids" program
- Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan** – For Project "Safe and Healthy"
- Raven Hill Discovery Center** – For the "Second Saturday" program for kids and families

The Youth Advisory Committee was created in response to a statewide challenge by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, who matched funds raised for youth up to a million dollars over five years. In order to meet the requirements of the challenge, a permanently endowed Youth Fund was created to address youth issues on a countywide basis. Since its inception, YAC grants to local youth projects total nearly **\$700,000**.

To learn more about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, including how to make a gift to the Youth Fund, please visit the Foundation online at www.c3f.org, or contact us, at 231-536-2440.