



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION

## **Geographic Enrichment Grant Awards**

### **October 2024**

#### Boyne City Area

##### **Boyne Citizen**

Grant Award: \$12,197

The Boyne Citizen is a local, nonprofit news source for the Boyne area, created in response to the "news desert" in our local area. Currently, residents have no regular, reliable, unbiased media covering the local news that is necessary to be an informed citizen. Grant funds will help to support professional writers, and editorial and bookkeeping services.

##### **Boyne District Library**

Grant Award: \$1,672

To inspire later success in children and encourage family bonding, the Boyne District Library Children's Services will host a "Family Battle of the Books," which will meet once a month for four months, starting in January 2025. Families will read a book together, discuss it, and prepare for a fun quiz game at the library. Grant funds will support the purchase of books for families to read and keep as well as dinner to be served at the Battle of the Books event each month.

##### **City of Boyne City**

Grant Award: \$10,000

The City of Boyne City would like to engage the Community Heart & Soul initiative—a grass-roots program which emphasizes broad, locally-driven community engagement—to address the following recent challenges: declining consensus around goals and priorities, public skepticism about decision-making processes and the representation of diverse community voices. Grant funds will help engage the community with this resident-driven, field-tested program in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want, and how to achieve it.

##### **Boyne Valley Community Greenhouse**

Grant Award: \$10,000

The BVCG's mission is to help break Northern Michigan's poverty cycle through support, education, hands-on learning, and positive interaction. This year alone, they have provided more than 28,000 pounds of fresh produce to families in need. Now, they are expanding to offer a community space with a classroom and commercial teaching kitchen which will be available to the public at no cost. The classroom space will allow BVCG to "teach people how to fish," so to speak, encouraging them to help themselves, in addition to continuing the important work of providing food directly. Grant funds will support the purchase of commercial kitchen equipment.



## Beaver Island

### **Beaver Island Wildlife Club**

Grant Award: \$6,000

In 2021, the BIWC installed a modest fishing pier at Lake Genesereth—a popular spot for both locals and visitors. Building on this success, BIWC seeks to significantly expand the project by constructing a larger, ADA-compliant pier that would extend further into Lake Genesereth, ensuring that individuals of all physical abilities have the opportunity to enjoy fishing at one of the Island's most beloved inland lakes. Grant funds will support the first fully accessible fishing pier on the Island.

### **Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance**

Grant Award: \$1,000

Many Islanders work during the summer making it possible for visitors to enjoy BIPAA's offerings, but at the cost of missing many of the events during the busy season. With intentional timing during Small Business Weekend, the proposed holiday concert and outreach not only communicates to Island residents how important they are to the BIPAA mission but also invites them to shop downtown and enjoy the music and sense of community. Grant funds will help support a holiday concert for the entire BI community followed by an in-school performance and educational programming at the Beaver Island Community School.

### **Tunes Music Makers**

Grant Award: \$9,000

TMM is the only organization currently offering music education on Beaver Island. They aim to expand access to music education for school-age children, thus enriching the educational and cultural experiences of students and providing access to consistent music education. Grant funds will allow the organization to bring in an Indigenous fiddle instructor and to continue offering music lessons.

### **Beaver Island Historical Society**

Grant Award: \$3,000

In 2016, the BIHS acquired the Miss Bay City, a trap net fishing boat which has a long history of fishing the Beaver Island archipelago waters. The goal is to renovate the Miss Bay City into an interactive museum exhibit. This also enhances another project that St. James Township is leading—a public fishing pier connecting to the Marine Museum with a ramp to the Miss Bay City. Grant funds will specifically help with light renovations and painting of the Miss Bay City.

### **Beaver Island Rural Health Center**

Grant Award: \$2,374

The BIRHC is doing tremendous work on the Island every single day. Whether it's caring for the sick or injured, vaccinating people against COVID-19, or educating patients about health and wellness. Research has shown that the straightforward need to replace obsolete equipment, such as office desk chairs, helps make office operations more efficient and improves office morale. Grant funds will help the Center to replace the current 24 year old, worn-out office chairs with new office chairs.

### **Little Traverse Conservancy**

Grant Award: \$11,250

LTC recognizes that BI is a very special place for people, culture, and wildlife and is seeking support to purchase and protect 40 acres of wetland property. Rare properties like this one are what maintain this essence for the Island—expanded wildlife habitat that offers a sanctuary for diverse species and preserves the natural beauty of BI for future generations, forever. Grant funds will help to purchase and protect this 40-acre wetland parcel.



## Charlevoix Area

### **Charlevoix Township**

Grant Award: \$10,300

Charlevoix Township has a long-term goal to improve public accessibility to Lake Michigan at Charlevoix Township Park. This park currently provides a degree of public access; however, the beach and lake are inaccessible to many with mobility challenges due to the steep grade of the path connecting the parking lot to the beach. Grant funds will support an engineering study and conceptual site plan which will allow the Township to begin the planning to improve this access gap for all people.

### **Charlevoix Circle of Arts**

Grant Award: \$10,000

CCA is seeking support for its community outreach programs to reach rural communities, particularly youth and lower-income families, which tend to have fewer cultural amenities. Grant funds will allow CCA to deliver free, high-quality cultural experiences at events such as Apple Fest and the Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting, and many more, to address this gap and work to ensure that all members of the community can engage with the arts.

### **Charlevoix Historical Society**

Grant Award: \$6,000

CHS has been updating their technology to keep up with the demands of their mission, which is to enrich Charlevoix culture through preservation, education, and engaging experiences celebrating our history. Grant funds will help CHS to replace two old and outdated staff workstations with new equipment that has sufficient hard drive space, the functionality needed to meet the demands of the job, and the ability to be networked to the new server.

### **Bergmann Center**

Grant Award: \$8,625

Bergmann Center has been serving individuals with developmental, physical, and/or mental disabilities for over 60 years. Recent staff changes and community engagement expansion efforts require an increase in capacity at the Center. Grant funds will support the necessary upgrading of internet equipment and connections to improve efficiency of all staff.

### **Charlevoix Area Community Pool**

Grant Award: \$2,500

The Charlevoix Area Community Pool is reviving the Stingray Swim Team with the help of Megan Smithburg—a Charlevoix nurse and experienced swim coach. Being a part of a team enhances a child's swimming abilities, physical fitness, and confidence while teaching valuable life skills such as time management and discipline. Grant funds will help to re-start the program with the goal of being self-sustaining after this first year.

### **Traverse City Dance Project**

Grant Award: \$2,000

The mission of the TCDP is to produce and present professional dance in Northern Michigan, promoting collaboration among artists and actively engaging with the community. As the only professional dance company in the region, the TDCP aims to provide high-quality cultural experiences for all community members including enhancing accessibility to live theater, particularly in rural areas. Grant funds will support bringing a live, professional dance performance to Charlevoix in the summer of 2025 as part of TDCP's 2025 Community Tour.



## East Jordan Area

### **City of East Jordan**

Grant Award: \$16,000

Memorial Park plays host to nearly all festivals and events in EJ throughout the year, boasts several sculptures as part of the Jordan Art Walk, and hosts boaters, tourists, and locals on a daily basis. Grant funds will support park upgrades and amenities, such as lighting and memorial benches, as part of the current Memorial Park Improvements Project.

### **Friends of the Jordan River Watershed**

Grant Award: \$20,000

FJR now serves as the head end for the new Don and Eileen Klein Nature Trail. Increased traffic at the FJR Watershed Center has created more interest around the authentic Jordan River flatboat used for fishing in the 1800s. The exhibit, housed in the on-site pavilion, needs restoration and protection from the elements to preserve this piece of EJ history for the future. Grant funds will support a professional redesign of the permanent year-round exhibit that will survive the elements and further inform visitors of this important legacy in EJ history.

### **Training Wheels Childcare Center**

Grant Award: \$10,275

TWCC provides quality childcare by promoting the growth of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs while recognizing that each child is unique and treasured. In order to do this, they must continue improving the childcare center and offering rich learning experiences for East Jordan's precious children. Grant funds will help TWCC to purchase a play structure called the "Smart Play Nook" which will provide sensory, motor skill, cognitive and social skill engagement, and enhancement for children from 6 months and older.

### **East Jordan Public Schools**

Grant Award: \$18,000

In the past, East Jordan High School performed yearly musical productions that were the pride of the community. After a 13 year hiatus, they are restarting the drama program thanks to staff member and drama program coordinator, Cody Morrison. Grant funds will help to replace the speaker system and amplifiers to provide a quality learning experience for students and performances for the community.

### **The Depot Jordan Valley Teen Center**

Grant Award: \$6,000

The Depot provides a safe and supportive environment at the Teen Zone facility in downtown EJ where teens have opportunities to be active, interact with peers, build confidence, and learn responsible decision making. Grant funds will help to purchase and install appropriate fencing to increase the safety and security of EJ teens.



## Urgent Needs

### **Ronald McDonald House of Western MI**

Grant Award: \$10,000

When a child is facing a medical crisis, the entire family is deeply affected on a financial, psychological, emotional, and social level. By providing families a place to stay, home cooked meals, transportation assistance, and much more, RMHCWM is helping families navigate some of the hardest times in their lives. In the past year, they've served seven families from Charlevoix County and saved them a collective \$9,653, not including transportation costs. Grant funds would continue to support Charlevoix County families who need the RMHCWM due to a child's illness. While they have requested \$10,000, we know that the real need in any given year could be much higher.

