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*Giving Back. Moving Forward.*

## Charlevoix County Community Foundation Fall Grant Awards

The Board of Trustees of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation recently approved \$201,691 in grants during the fall 2016 grant cycle. "Awards include over \$15,000 in timely assistance for food pantries and emergency fuel & utility payments to help our neighbors keep warm and well-fed through this winter season. Many folks are employed, but may be having a hard time making ends meet. All donations - big and small- given through the Community Foundation will help fill local needs," says Maureen Radke, Program Officer with the Community Foundation.

The grant awards included \$28,077 in funding for projects that will impact Charlevoix County youth in a positive way. The grants were recommended by the foundation's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). "The YAC members interview the potential grantees that are proposing youth programs and ask many thoughtful questions regarding outreach, sustainability, collaboration and more," said Mishelle Shooks, who coordinates the Youth Advisory Committee on the foundation's behalf. "The YAC put a lot of time and thought into the details of each proposal and use the foundation criteria as well as results from their peer survey to determine the merit of each grant," she said. "They have to continually make tough decisions regarding their funding recommendations, however, they handle the process professionally and continually impress us with their ability to cohesively agree in the end while respecting each other's divergent viewpoints," she concluded.

In addition to grants to benefit youth, the recent grants support programs in the arts; education; community development; the environment; human services; health and wellness; recreation and more. "Grant proposals from area non-profit organizations keep us informed of community needs. We connect issues with donors who want to help. In that way, the community foundation provides a unique niche," Radke added.

A charitable organization dedicated to improving and enriching life in the area, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation accepts gifts from individuals, families, businesses and civic groups and manages them as permanent endowments. While a portion of the funds are utilized to support grantmaking, the principal of the endowment continues to grow, providing perpetual charitable capital to benefit Charlevoix County's residents—now and in the future.

Since it was founded in 1992, the community foundation's net assets have grown to \$30.5 million. Grants and scholarships totaling more than \$20.6 million have been distributed to enhance and enrich the quality of life for all those who currently live in Charlevoix County—and for generations to come.

The foundation welcomes inquiries and grant requests. The next deadline for submitting a grant request is Wednesday, March 1, 2017. For a complete list of the recent grant awards, visit the foundation's website at [www.c3f.org](http://www.c3f.org) and click on "What's New," then "Recent Grants."