



*Giving Back. Moving Forward.*

## Charlevoix County Community Foundation Spring 2017 Grant Awards

The Board of Trustees of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) recently approved \$156,544 in grants during the March 2017 grant cycle. The grant awards are timely, with spring weather just around the corner. "Many great projects will be getting started just as soon as possible, to improve and enrich our communities across Charlevoix County," says Maureen Radke, Program Officer with the Community Foundation.

Some of the shovel-ready projects receiving grant awards include: bridge work over Cokirs Creek on the Jordan River to provide access to a recreation area; vault toilet restrooms at Dam Road Park in Boyne Valley Township; support for Phase 3 of the Boyne City to Charlevoix non-motorized trail, and raised gardens at Forest View Community senior apartments on Beaver Island.

The Community Foundation is simultaneously raising matching monies for the Urgent Needs Fund to support basic human needs for Charlevoix County residents. As noted by the C3F Board President Bill Aten, "Our grant communities want to address these basic needs first. The positive impact of growing the Urgent Needs Fund will make it possible for the Community Foundation to expand its grantmaking capacity to support other needs in the community as well," he added.

The grant awards included \$26,170 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 consider each grant thoroughly and weight them up against our grantmaking guidelines as well as the youth needs assessment that they conduct every three years. The youth needs assessment allows them to use the voices of youth to help them decide on the highest needs for youth in Charlevoix County," said Mishelle Shooks, who coordinates the Youth Advisory Committee on the foundation's behalf. "The decisions are not always easy for the YAC members; however, they do a great job asking questions and discussing the impact that each grant will make, should they fund it," she said. "Although these teens come from various schools across Charlevoix County, they do a great job representing all area youth during their meetings," 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 the Community Foundation informed of community needs. C3F connects issues with donors who want to help.

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 over \$35 million. Grants and scholarships totaling more than \$19.7 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 Monday, October 2, 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."