



*Giving Back. Moving Forward.*

## Charlevoix County Community Foundation Fall 2017 Grant Awards

The Board of Trustees of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) recently approved more than \$277,000 in grants through the October 2017 grant cycle. The grant awards included \$19,500 for home heating assistance, fresh local produce for food pantries, and utility payments that are so necessary at this time of year to help friends and neighbors experiencing short-term financial setbacks,” said Maureen Radke, Program Officer with the Community Foundation.

In addition to urgent needs, eleven environmental and land use projects received funding. The support of the Community Foundation will expand two non-motorized trail systems, as well as fund an irrigation system that will improve the bounty produced during the growing season at the Charlevoix County Jail. A first-time grantee, the Charlevoix Conservation District, also received support to kick off funding for a new multi-purpose meeting room.

Beaver Island residents will enjoy the benefits of five grant awards. The Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve will see improved boardwalks and signs on the trail at this popular Little Traverse Conservancy site. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will deliver their Watershed Academy program to high school students, teaching water resource ethics and stewardship. St. James Township was successful in receiving funding assistance that will help the Township develop a comprehensive Recreation Plan. Museum Week will be better than ever on the Island too, with assistance for the expansion of events and enhancements at Protar’s Cabin. Finally, two additional choral risers will enhance the events of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association.

“The grants approved by the Community Foundation Board of Trustees have the potential to benefit residents everywhere in Charlevoix County. We truly impact and benefit all communities with this wide variety of grant-making,” said Radke.

The grant awards included \$31,450 in funding for projects that will impact Charlevoix County youth in a positive way. The grants were recommended by the Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). “The process is always difficult because we review a lot of great proposals, but rarely have enough money to fund all projects,” said YAC President Auriana Leismer, a senior at Boyne City High School. Auriana added that “we were able to recommend funding for proposals that we believe will substantially benefit the youth of Charlevoix County.”

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, and the Community Foundation connects the programs and projects with donors who want to help make a difference close to home.

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 ongoing 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 more than \$39 million. Grants and scholarships totaling more than \$22 million have been distributed to enhance and enrich the quality of life for everyone in Charlevoix County—and for generations to come.

The Community Foundation welcomes inquiries and grant requests. The next deadline for submitting a grant request is Thursday, March 1, 2018. 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."