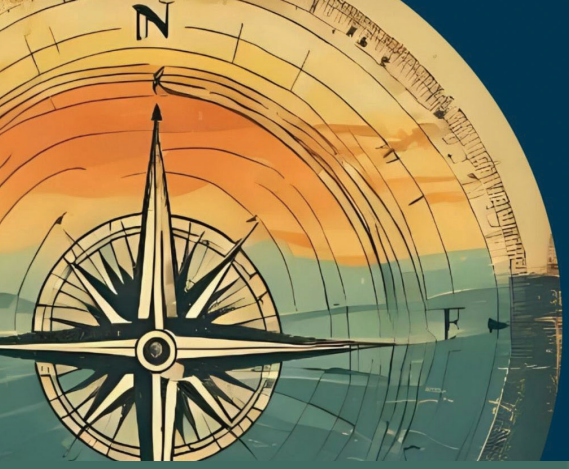


Community Foundation for
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN
Navigator
Autumn 2026

In this issue

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- Urgent Needs Fund Grants

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Foundation Supports Spring Flood and Ice Storm Recovery



This spring brought one challenge after another to communities across Northeast Michigan. A powerful ice storm in March left residents without power, created widespread debris and brought unexpected expenses. Just weeks later, devastating floods hit communities across the region.

For families affected by these disasters, recovery meant much more than cleaning up. It meant finding food, staying warm, and caring for children, pets, and older adults. It also meant repairing homes and simply figuring out how to get through the next day.

Through the Urgent Needs Fund, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan and Straits Area Community Foundation affiliate awarded nearly $87,000 in emergency grants to help communities respond to both disasters.

The ice storm grants totaling $36,724 supported a wide range of immediate needs, including warming shelters, storm cleanup, home repairs, food assistance, emergency kits for seniors, and gas, food and utility assistance for families. Grants supported organizations and communities across Alcona and Alpena Counties and surrounding areas.

When flooding struck later in the spring, another $50,000 in grants helped organizations in Cheboygan County and neighboring communities provide warm meals, food assistance, cleanup supplies, and debris removal. Funding also helped establish a temporary shelter for pets so families could evacuate safely without leaving their animals behind. However, the numbers tell only part of the story.

The real story is the family who had a warm meal when their kitchen wasn't usable; the senior who received an emergency

Story continues on page 2.

kit; the homeowner who had help clearing storm debris; the parent who could use a gas card to get to work; and the family who didn't have to choose between caring for their pet and finding a safe place to stay. Behind each of those moments were people who cared enough to help.



"We are so grateful to the many individuals and businesses that have contributed to the Urgent Needs Fund," said Community Foundation Development Director Christine Hitch. "Without this support, we wouldn't be able to react so quickly, and that speaks volumes about our communities. When our neighbors face hardship, our region comes together to help neighbors recover."

That's the power of the Urgent Needs Fund. It allows our community to be ready when the unexpected happens. When disaster strikes, resources can move quickly to trusted organizations already on the front lines.

Story photos: Front page top: A volunteer from Disaster Relief at Work unloads emergency supplies; front page left: neighbors affected by flooding around Black Lake receive hot meals (photo courtesy of Mercy Chefs); this page top: Dawn Fenstermaker stands with supplies purchased with a grant to Forest Township.



Bigger Grants. Bigger Possibilities.

We're changing the way we invest in community ideas – and thinking bigger.

For years, our Community Impact Grant program has provided grants of up to $5,000 to help nonprofits across Northeast Michigan make good things happen. Those grants have supported everything from new programs and community events to equipment, expanded services, and unexpected needs. Now, we're taking the next step.

Beginning this year, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM) will offer **Vision Grants of up to $15,000** for projects serving Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties. Why? Because sometimes a bigger investment can make a bigger difference.

A $15,000 grant can give an organization the resources to launch an ambitious new initiative, expand a successful program to reach more people, improve the way services are delivered, or take an idea from a promising concept to meaningful community impact.

Two Ways to Make a Difference

We know that not every community need requires a large investment. Some of the most valuable work happens through smaller projects, one-time events, equipment purchases, or an organization simply needing a little help to keep something moving. That's why we're creating two complementary grant opportunities.

Vision Grants will provide up to $15,000 for larger-scale projects and initiatives with the potential for significant impact. **Community Grants** will provide up to $3,000 for the smaller projects and more immediate needs that are also an important part of a thriving community.

Together, these two grant opportunities allow the Foundation to do something we believe is important: respond to a broad range of needs while also making larger, more intentional investments in ideas with the potential to create lasting change.

Following Where the Need Leads

CFNEM has identified four areas where we believe our grantmaking can have particular impact. Our current priorities are **mental health, environmental preservation and stewardship, childcare, and food/nutrition**. These priorities help guide our investments, but they don't limit them. **Organizations working in every area of community life are welcome to apply.** Preference may be given to projects that align with our current priorities, but we know that important work—and important needs—exist throughout Northeast Michigan.

Your Giving Makes a Bigger Impact Possible

There are always more worthwhile requests for funding than we can support. That's why growing our Community Impact Fund matters.

Every dollar added to this fund gives the Foundation greater ability to respond to changing needs, support more organizations, and make larger investments in ideas that can move our communities forward.

This new approach to grantmaking is ultimately about putting philanthropy to work in an even more intentional way. Bigger ideas deserve the opportunity to grow. Smaller needs still deserve to be supported. And together, they all contribute to a stronger Northeast Michigan.

For nonprofits

Learn more about our update to grantmaking and view guidelines for Vision Grants and Community Grants at cfnem.org under "Grants".



Play Time! *Our Northeast Michigan Youth Advisory Council (YAC) supported this "Imagination Playground" with a $1,000 grant to United Way of Northeast Michigan.*

The portable playground can be used repeatedly at events throughout the region.

CFNEM Featured Grants

Endowment Funds Strengthen Alpena Public Schools for Generations



Alpena Public Schools elementary students are benefitting from a new math curriculum designed to strengthen learning and help build a solid foundation for future academic success. Thanks to years of thoughtful planning, community generosity, and prudent investment, funding for this important initiative is already in place.

Alpena Public Schools recently received a $100,000 grant from the Alpena Public Schools Endowment Fund, held at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM), to purchase and implement a new math curriculum for elementary school students throughout the district. This is a grant reflecting years of community generosity. Contributions from the school district, local businesses, and community members who believe in the future of Alpena students have been invested over time, creating a lasting source of support for Alpena Public Schools.

Alpena Public Schools holds several endowment funds with CFNEM that support a variety of district needs, extending the impact beyond the classroom. An additional $7,000 was distributed from the Alpena Public Schools Extracurricular Endowment Fund to help upgrade equipment in the Alpena High School weight room, benefiting student-athletes who use the facility throughout the year; and $40,000 was distributed from the Granum Family Alpena Board of Education Fund to support the loan payment toward previous improvements to the Alpena High School primary athletic field. Over the past seven years, that fund has distributed $280,000 to support Alpena Public Schools.



Growing More Than Wildflowers

At the Helen Nisbet Roberts Nature Preserve in Harrisville, 38 local students spent the day this spring planting native wildflowers in partnership with the Alcona Conservation District helping restore vital habitat for pollinators like the endangered Karner blue butterfly. But the impact goes far beyond the land, with a story of love and legacy, and of connecting generations for a shared purpose.

For many of these students, this project is a chance to connect, create, and simply be kids - especially during a challenging time in their lives. Through hands-on work and teamwork, they're building something lasting for their community and future generations.

With support from a CFNEM Community Impact Grant from the Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Eustis Fund, this multi-year project is cultivating both a thriving ecosystem and a sense of belonging.

COMMUNITY Impact Grants

Over $95,000 Awarded Through Summer Community Impact Grants

A new round of Community Impact Grants awarded in September 2026 is supporting local nonprofits with $95,208 in funding and covering Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties. Projects receiving the $5,000 maximum grant include:

- Alpena Senior Citizens Center for the Meals on Wheels program
- Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District for a program to process harvested deer for a healthy meat source for people in need and to help control the deer population
- Friends of the Harrisville Train Depot to build ADA-compliant restrooms at the Depot
- Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan to support construction costs
- Lincoln Pop-Up Pantry to cover trucking costs for food assistance
- NEMCSA to purchase winter gear for children at Lewiston Elementary School
- Northeast Michigan Family Resource Center for prevention-focused education that promotes safe environments where children can thrive
- Presque Isle Conservation District for flood reparations at the Herman Vogler Walking Bridge
- Rogers City Area Seniors, Inc. to purchase medical equipment for their "loan closet"

Visit cfnem.org under About Us/Resources or use the QR code here to view the full list of Community Impact Grants online.

Women's Giving Circle Awards 2026 Round of Grants

This summer, the Northeast Michigan Women's Giving Circle (WGC) awarded over $70,000 in grants to support issues important to women in our communities. Among this year's grants were projects that aim to **inspire, encourage, and support women and young girls, and that support the community in many ways such as environmental stewardship, food assistance, transportation, and childcare.** These grants are overseen by the Foundation's WGC committee, made up of members who have supported the Women's Giving Circle Endowment Fund at CFNEM.

A full list of WGC grants and members can be found at cfnem.org under "Give/ Women's Giving Circle" or by using the QR code below, where you can also find information on becoming a WGC member and be part of **collective giving** to make a difference.



Northeast Michigan Women's Giving Circle

Pictured above: 2026 WGC Committee Members, left to right: Kathleen Carignan, Dr. Lisa Hilberg, Angela Addington, Mary Linton, Nancy Szjebach, Ann Burton, Stacie Anderson, Melissa LaCombe, and Erin Kieliszewski. Not pictured is Ann Boyk.

Over $615,000 in Scholarships Awarded in 2026

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan and its three Affiliate Foundations awarded a total of $615,162 to more than 200 students across the nine counties of Northeast Michigan this year! Scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing college, medical school, skilled trades or a specialized program. The impact of these scholarships reaches far beyond a single school year. By helping students pursue careers in fields ranging from healthcare and agriculture to welding, plumbing, the arts, and countless other professions, these awards are strengthening the future of our communities.

Pictured top: Alcona High School graduates receive CFNEM Scholarships in May 2026; Middle: North Central Michigan Community Foundation Board member Jozann Burgin presents the Sheriff Kirk Alan Wakefield Memorial Scholarship to Kameron Roznowski at Ogemaw Heights High School. Bottom: Straits Area Community Foundation's Board President, Linda Rogers (far right) presents scholarships to Cheboygan High School graduates in May 2026.







Our Affiliate Foundations

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan's reach extends beyond the borders of our immediate four-county area to include the counties served by our three Affiliate Foundations: Iosco County Community Foundation, North Central Michigan Community Foundation, and Straits Area Community Foundation.

While these affiliate foundations operate under the umbrella of CFNEM, each is led by a local board of directors representing the communities they serve. Gifts made to funds of our Affiliates stay within those communities, and all grant and scholarship decisions are made locally, too. We are honored to be part of the incredible philanthropic work happening across Northeast Michigan in partnership with our Affiliate Foundations, just a sample of which is featured on the next pages of this report.

Community Foundation for NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

$96.6 million

Our Affiliates make up approximately 25% of our total assets as of 9/30/2026.

IOSCO COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

$9.87 million

NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Serving Crawford, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties

$9.71 million

STRAITS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

$5.02 million

Iosco County Community Foundation Celebrates 2026 Citizens and Junior Citizens of the Year

The Iosco County Community Foundation (ICCF) has named Norman and Marian Charters the 2026 Iosco County Citizens of the Year. Addison Russo, of Oscoda, was named 2026 Junior Citizen of the Year. These awards were created by ICCF to honor adults and youth in Iosco County who go above and beyond by giving of their time, talent and resources to help their community.

Together, Norm and Marian Charters have devoted their time and energy to a wide range of community efforts. Known by many as an inseparable team, their impact is felt across countless organizations, events, and individual acts of kindness. Their service extends far beyond one organization, as they support numerous local causes and community organizations, schools, churches, and families in need.

Addison Russo is a recent Oscoda High School graduate. Her impressive academic achievements, as well as her character, leadership, and genuine commitment to others, are why she was named Junior Citizen of the Year.

Throughout high school, Addison maintained a 3.9 GPA while also challenging herself through dual enrollment at Alpena Community College. Her passion for learning has been a driving force behind her success, culminating in her recent acceptance to the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, a testament to her dedication and hard work. Beyond the classroom, Addison has demonstrated exceptional leadership and civic engagement. Respected by classmates, teachers, and community members alike, she leads by example. Her kindness, responsibility, and positive spirit help create a welcoming and supportive environment wherever she goes, making her a truly deserving recipient of this award.

Pictured below: Left to right ICCF Board members Mark Fore, Amy Peterman, Andrew Johnson, Nina O'Loughlin; Citizens of the Year Norman and Marian Charters; Junior Citizen of the Year Addison Russo; ICCF Board Members Tim Haskin, Kelly Alexander, Tony Ommani, and Kayla Raushi.



ICCF Awards Milestone Grant

2026 marked a meaningful milestone for ICCF as it awarded the first-ever $10,000 Community Improvement Grant, providing major support for workforce development and education at the Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency. In addition to this major grant, ICCF also awarded an additional $5,423 through three grants supporting Tawas Wellness Warriors' health and wellness community programs, Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing's ROV program, and facility upgrades at Palomino Hope Equine Experience.



Pictured left to right: ICCF Board members Kayla Raushi and Kelly Alexander; IRESA Special Education Director Aimee Rioux; ICCF Board members Amy Peterman and Liam Strauer.

"This year marks a meaningful milestone for ICCF as we proudly awarded our first-ever $10,000 grant to a program serving our community," said ICCF President Kelly Alexander. "This investment reflects our continued commitment to support impactful local initiatives that strengthen Iosco County for generations to come."

The grant to IRESA will support the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES), which is a hands-on, simulated workplace environment within the classroom, allowing students to gain real-world job experience while developing critical workplace skills such as time management, productivity, and workplace independence.

A Fitting Tribute for a Life of Service



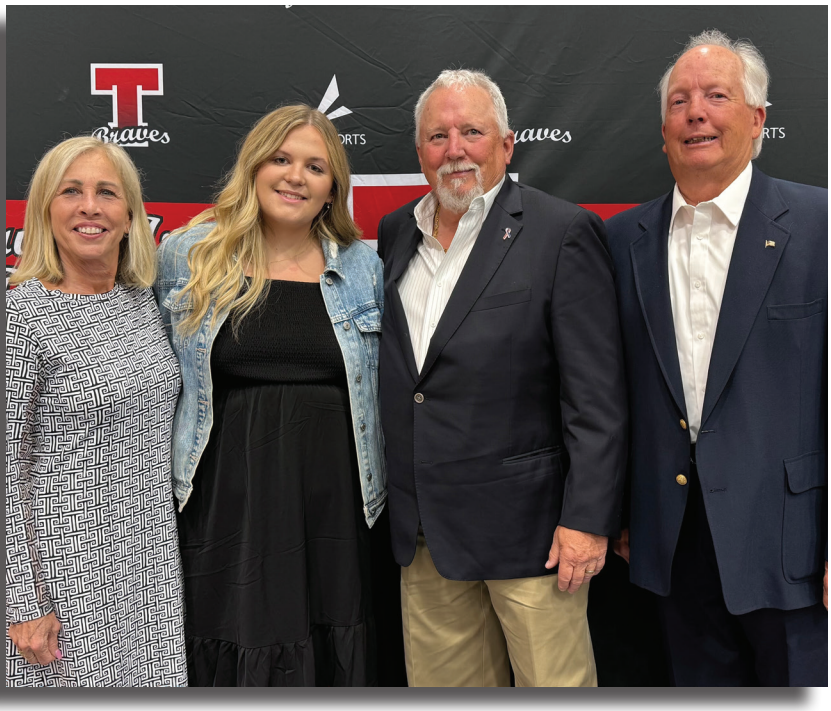
One of the newer scholarship funds of the Iosco County Community Foundation honors the memory of a decorated United States Air Force General, a longtime Tawas area community member, and one of the individuals responsible for establishing ICCF's Community Improvement Fund.

General Earl T. O'Loughlin (left) moved to the Tawas area as a young boy. After graduating from Bay City Junior College, he began his storied 36-year career in the United States Air Force. That career saw combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, a decade as an aircraft commander and instructor pilot, and many high-ranking assignments across the United States and the globe – a distinguished career that was a source of great pride for him and his family. After retiring in 1987, General O'Loughlin and his wife, Shirlee (who passed away in 2003), settled back in his hometown of East Tawas, building their dream home and enjoying the "up north" life. He spent his well-earned retirement active in area organizations like the Tawas Men's Club, Elks, American Legion, and VFW, and sharing time with family. After remarrying, he and his wife, Thelma, enjoyed traveling the world.

General O'Loughlin holds a special place in ICCF's history as well. In 1998, he made the donation that established the Iosco County Community Improvement Fund. That gift created an endowment fund that is now supported by over a hundred other people and has provided more than $130,000 to local nonprofits.

In 2023, shortly after General O'Loughlin's passing, his family wanted to create a legacy in his honor to support Tawas area students in pursuing education beyond high school. This year, his sons Kelly and Kevin, and daughter-in-law Nina O'Loughlin, presented the first General Earl O'Loughlin Memorial Scholarship to Olivia Livingston (right).

By supporting students for years to come, this scholarship offers a fitting tribute to someone who devoted so much of his life to serving our country and community.



NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Serving Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda Counties

One Legacy - Many Lives Touched

Some legacies are built in a single moment. Others are built over a lifetime - in classrooms and kitchens, around dinner tables and campfires, through friendships, family, and the simple act of showing up for the community you call home.

For Tom and Sally Kemmis, it was all of those things, and when Tom decided to do something to honor Sally's memory after she passed away in August of 2023, he knew he wanted those efforts to carry their shared legacy forward.

In 2026, he established the Sally and Tom Kemmis Fund, a permanent fund at the North Central Michigan Community Foundation (NCMCF). This fund honors Sally's passion for teaching and reflects Tom's own belief in the power of community, and it will provide grants to Ogemaw Heights High School where Sally taught to support teachers through projects that enhance foreign language and cultural study curriculum and programs.

Sally was a beloved Spanish teacher who had a gift for making students excited about learning. She loved languages and cultures, and she poured herself into her students, often spending her own money on classroom supplies, materials and little things that made learning more engaging. *(Story continues on next page.)*





"She loved kids, school, education and community," Tom says. "I can't tell you the amount of money she spent out of her own pocket on posters, materials, supplies, candy, and fun things for the students. I think she would love the fact that this fund is supporting teachers that share her passion for education. The trickle effect of it supporting students is icing on the cake."

For Tom, that approach also reflects his own values. He was born and raised in Oscoda County and graduated from Mio-Ausable High School. He and Sally, a Rose City native, maintained strong ties to their community throughout their lives. Tom built his career in the grocery business, first as manager of the meat department at Hub Market in Prudenville, Mich., then at Glen's Market and Family Fare in Rose City. He has been known fondly as "the meat man" – the friendly and familiar face in the meat department.

"I value education so much, and I can't stress enough about how much it meant to Sally, and this fund honors that. My hope is that people will say her name for a long time and remember her," he says. "And for me, that people might say, 'yeah, Tom, he's that quiet "meat man" we've known for years.'"

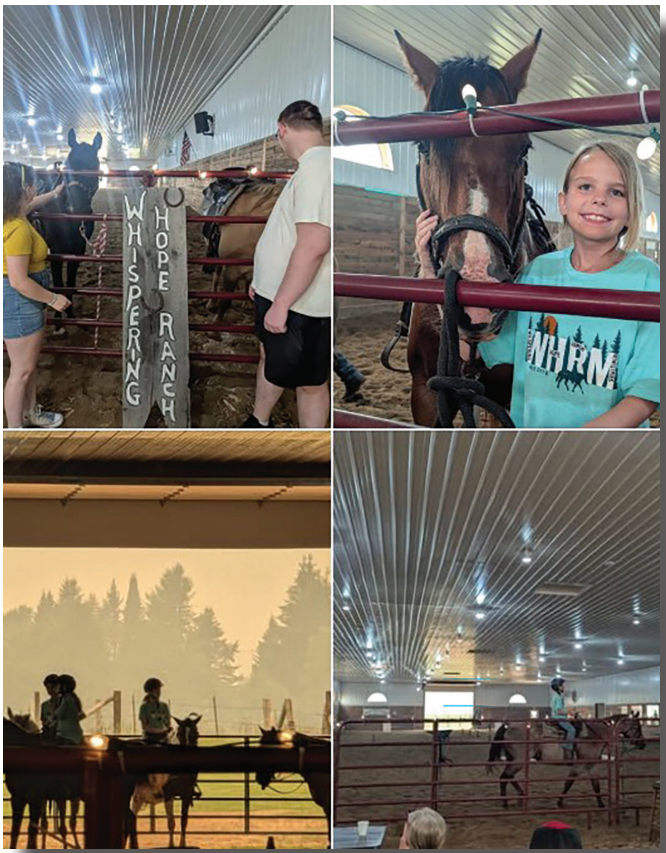
With encouragement from longtime friends, including Nick Holton, who helped connect Tom with the Community Foundation, Tom made the decision to establish the permanent fund. Friends held auctions and made donations to help get it started along with him - a decision he says has been deeply rewarding.

"I've never regretted going in fully last fall to start this fund. I feel it's one of the best charitable things I've ever done," he says. "We have always been grateful for the school and the fine people in this community. To be able to give a little back is wonderful."

Starting in the Saddle

Members of our NCMCF Youth Advisory Council, along with members of our staff, visited Whispering Hope Ranch Ministries in Rose City over the summer. They saw firsthand what a special experience it is for young people who come to the Ranch's camp, each of which brings together 8–12 students who spend the week learning how to work with and ride horses. They set goals, learn about safety, practice new skills and, perhaps most importantly, learn to trust themselves and their horse. During NCMCF's visit, campers were learning to trot and lope and preparing for the ranch's "Showdeo," where they could show off what they've learned.

Supporting opportunities like this for young people is an important part of our work. Through youth grant funding from NCMCF, the ranch has received more than $6,000 to help make these experiences possible.



A Big "Thank You" for Board Service



We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Marc Haring, of Grayling for his eight years of service on the NCMCF Board of Directors and its Crawford County grant screening committee. Marc's thoughtful guidance and leadership coincided with great growth during his time with the North Central Michigan Community Foundation, including $2.16 million in grants and scholarships awarded, and growth in assets from $4.9 million in 2018 to $9.7 million in 2026.

As a financial advisor with Edward Jones, Marc also served as an advocate and ambassador, encouraging philanthropy in the community he calls "home", and for the entire North Central Michigan region. Marc, thank you for your service to NCMCF!

North Central Michigan Community Foundation

2026 Community Impact Grants



$16,912

- $4,092 to COOR/Great Start Collaborative for a “Sensory Path”
- $3,238 to PoWeR! Book Bags for literacy programs
- $2,500 to Max-Well Therapy Center for at-risk youth equine programs
- $2,500 to Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic for diabetic patient support
- $2,500 to Rayola for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- $2,082 to Village of Prescott for a new playground



The NCMCF Board recently visited Ogemaw County-based nonprofit, Rayola, to see first-hand how the organization is working with its volunteers to provide care packages to more than 110 children in foster care in the NCMCF service area. NCMCF has supported Rayola’s work through several grants, supporting comfort bags and care packages throughout the year. Comfort bags are filled with age-specific items and are provided to children upon entering foster care, around holidays, and before school begins. *Pictured left to right: Paul Bailey, Gail Hughey, Liz Steinhurst, Andrea Rose, Jozann Burgin, Randy Booth, Savannah Withers, and Jera Eastman.*

Straits Area Youth Take Center Stage



A grant from the Straits Area Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is helping young people gain confidence and a whole new set of skills.

Cheboygan's Northland Players used its YAC grant to support set construction for last summer's Moana, Jr. youth theater production, where 63 young people participated.

Those children were able to perform on stage, work behind the scenes, show off their efforts to the more than 1,000 people who came to cheer them on. In fact, the production drew the largest audience in the program's history!

Project organizers say the real impact of this grant was seen in the young people themselves. Parents talked about their kids gaining confidence and finding a place where they could be themselves. One young crew member called the program the highlight of his summer. They also shared that SACF's investment in the youth theater program won't end with Moana, Jr. The set pieces and materials purchased with the grant are being designed for a second life, to be reused, modified, and incorporated into future productions, creating impact far beyond a single show.

Support Cheboygan County Moms and Babies

RxKids®
A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity
Cash for Moms and Babies

Cheboygan County has an incredible opportunity at its doorstep. With enough community financial giving, mothers and babies could have vital support during pregnancy and in the first months of a child's life - a time when income plunges and expenses spike.

Originally launched in Flint in 2024, Rx Kids provides direct cash support during pregnancy and early infancy, which is one of the most financially challenging and developmentally critical periods for families. Early results from Rx Kids communities across Michigan show near-universal enrollment, reduced financial stress, improved maternal and infant health, and stronger local economies as dollars flow directly into neighborhood businesses.

The Cheboygan Opportunity

The chance to have this incredible program in Cheboygan County is here, but it's not a done deal. As a public-private partnership, Rx Kids is funded through both public investment and philanthropic leadership. If individuals and local organizations can raise $190,080 by the

deadline of February 14, 2027, it will unlock a $1.5 million commitment from the State of Michigan - an approximate 8:1 match that would provide $1.7 million directly to Cheboygan County families.

When enrolled, moms receive $1,500 during pregnancy and $500 a month for the baby's first six months. Data shows that most of this money is spent on diapers, food, housing, and medical care.

Rx Kids is growing across Michigan. Cheboygan County could be next.



Interested in donating or pledging to make it a reality? Visit sacf.net under "Give" or scan the QR code here to make a pledge.

Contributions for Rx Kids Cheboygan will be received and administered by CFNEM on behalf of the Straits Area Community Foundation. CFNEM currently serves as the fiduciary for Rx Kids in Montmorency County, where 37 families and 27 babies have been provided $99,500 in prescribed cash from April 1, 2026 - October 1, 2026.



SACF 2026 Community Impact Grants

$19,218

$2,000 Grants

- McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation - emergency handheld radio system
- Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium - employment barrier reduction initiative
- North Central Michigan College Foundation - dental hygiene program and low-cost dental clinic
- Samaritas - Grebe Village senior gardens and bike racks
- Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan - college, career, and workforce training for women

$1,555 Grants

- Cheboygan County Humane Society - spaying and neutering of feral cats
- Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity - support for new builds in Mackinaw City

Other grants include funding to support foster families, public safety, arts programs, beach cleanup stations, childhood literacy programming, and more. View all SACF's 2026 Community Impact grants online at sacf.net.

Our Youth Advisory Councils

Our Youth Advisory Councils, or YACs, are active throughout our Northeast Michigan service area, including within in our affiliate foundations. Through this program, the Community Foundation is working to build the next generation of givers by learning how philanthropy influences our communities through grantmaking, leadership opportunities, and service.



YAC Member Claire Caplis Elected to Statewide Youth Committee

Claire Caplis has been elected to the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee of the Council of Michigan Foundations. MCFYP is the statewide youth philanthropy council for Michigan, made up of youth who currently are or have recently served on a Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Claire is a member of our Northeast Michigan Youth Advisory Council, CFNEM Youth Trustee-elect, and a senior at Alpena High School.

"Being a part of the Michigan Community Foundation Youth Project (MCFYP) will allow me to take a very active role in service and grantmaking through the conference and regional training," says Claire. "During my 3-year term I will contribute to leading the development, design, and facilitation of youth programming at CMF, including the annual Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference. In addition, I will be helping develop youth philanthropy throughout the state, nation, and even the world."

We congratulate Claire on this prestigious position and thank her for representing the young philanthropists of Northeast Michigan.

Celebrating YAC Successes

In October 2026, YAC members from Alcona and Iosco Counties gathered to exchange ideas, learn from each other, and plan for the year ahead. They also celebrated Iosco County YAC's 2026–27 stewardship of Mac the Golden Yak - a rotating prize earned through outstanding community service, awareness projects, and exemplary leadership.



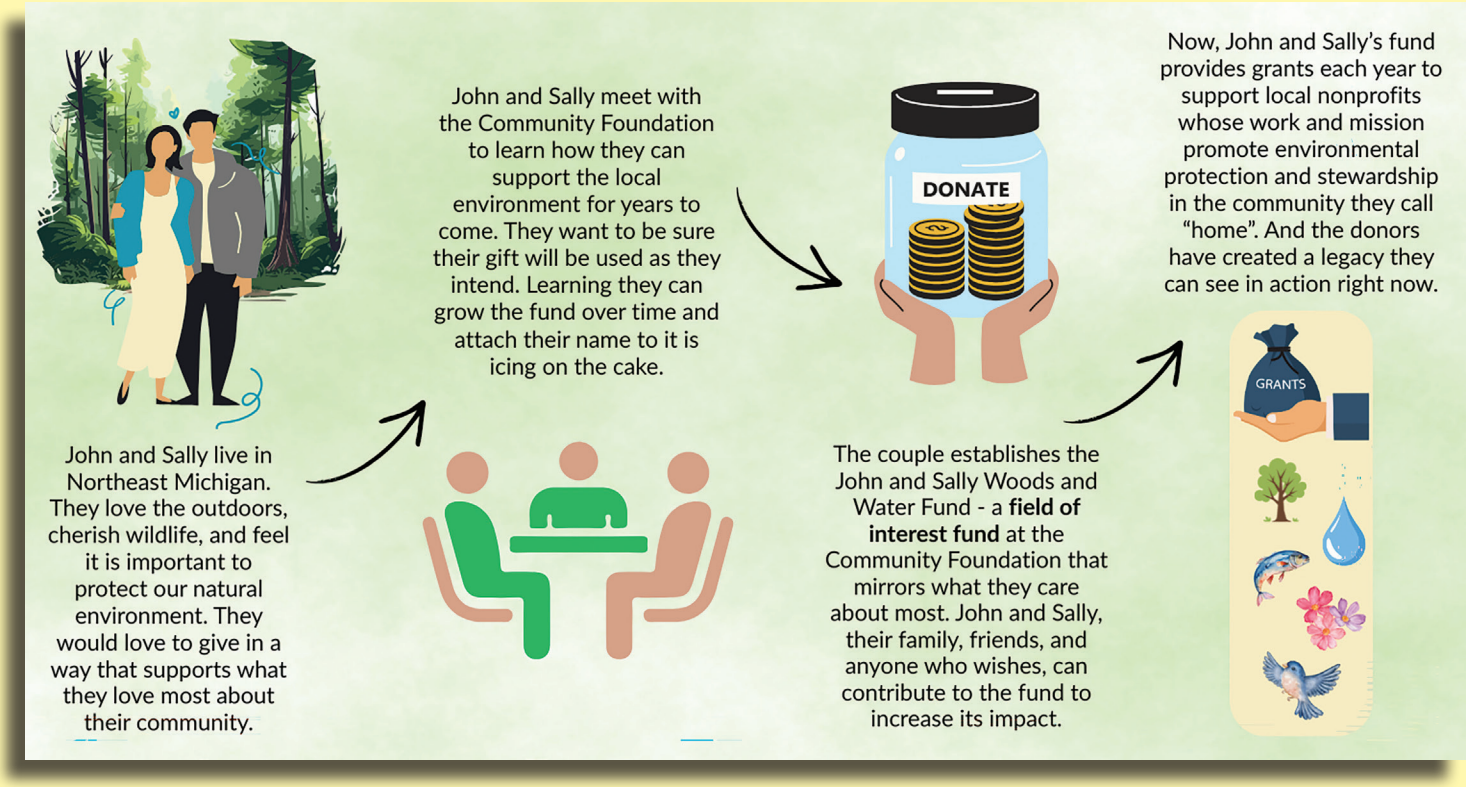


Pictured right is Oscoda High School Principal Rebecca Brooks, dressed for Mac's arrival and display before he moves to the next Iosco County high school.

Philanthropy Focus: Field of Interest Funds

A Powerful Tool for Connecting to Your Favorite Causes

Field of interest funds connect your generosity with the causes closest to your heart. Whether your passion is helping children succeed, protecting natural resources, supporting the arts, or improving community health, you can make a lasting impact in the area you care about most. You can support an existing Field of interest fund or establish one of your own to reflect your personal charitable vision. Rather than selecting individual organizations, you entrust the Community Foundation with identifying the greatest opportunities and emerging needs within your chosen field—ensuring your gift continues to make a meaningful difference for generations to come. Here's how a field of interest fund works:



Interested in learning more?

Connect with CFNEM Development & Marketing Director Christine Hitch at chitch@cfnem.org; 989-354-6881.

How We Use AI

The Community Foundation occasionally uses AI tools to help organize and summarize information, work through ideas, and refine written communication. We do not enter personally identifying or confidential information into AI tools. Our staff reviews all AI assisted work. The decisions we make and the information we communicate remain our responsibility.

We use AI where it can help us work more efficiently, while keeping human judgment, relationships, privacy, and trust at the center of our work.

Community Foundation for
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Youth Advisory Council Grant Supports Beach Cleanup

With a $2,500 grant from the Northeast Michigan Youth Advisory Council, Great Lakes Great Responsibility helped local youth select and install beach cleanup stations at popular regional beaches. The project made it easier for beachgoers to remove litter while empowering young people to protect the Great Lakes and become environmental advocates. See more YAC highlights inside!



