

IOSCO COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Update

Autumn 2025

Community Foundation Announces Iosco County 2025 Citizen and Junior Citizen of the Year

Those who earn the honor of Citizen of the Year are the quiet heroes and steady leaders who make Iosco County stronger and more connected. They are the ones who see a need and step up, giving their time, talents, and energy not for recognition, but because they believe in the place they call home.

In 2025, the Iosco County Community Foundation (ICCF) proudly recognized Nina O'Loughlin of East Tawas as the Citizen of the Year and Hannah Moore of Oscoda as the Junior Citizen of the Year. These awards highlight adults and youth whose efforts remind us that lasting change comes from people willing to give of themselves.

Nina O'Loughlin has been a driving force in Iosco County through her leadership, generosity, and commitment to community service. With the Iosco County Quota Club, she helped expand fundraising efforts and strengthen the organization, including launching the successful 50+ Women Who Care program and organizing the always-popular Trivia Night. Nina is known for rolling up her sleeves to make events successful—whether coordinating logistics, pitching in at parades and festivals, or even dressing as a hot dog to bring some fun to a fundraiser. She regularly opens her home for gatherings, showing her belief in building community on every level.

Her involvement reaches well beyond the Quota Club. Nina is active in Tawas Rotary, where she has led fundraising events, coordinated scholarships, and organized projects like Earth Day cleanups. She also lends her time and resources to the Wellness Warriors Community Collective, the Oscoda Chamber of Commerce, local festivals, and the hospital. Through each role, she brings energy, dedication, and a willingness to do what's needed.

Hannah Moore, the 2025 Junior Citizen of the Year, has demonstrated both leadership and academic excellence. A graduate of Oscoda High School's Class of 2025, Hannah was valedictorian with a 4.0 GPA while also earning an associate's degree from Alpena Community College.

- Story continues on next page -



Pictured back row, left to right: Liam Strauer, Cliff Miller, and Tony Ommani. Front row: Andrew Johnson, Kelly Alexander, Nina O'Loughlin, Amy Peterman, and Mark Fore.



Hannah Moore receives her award from ICCF Board President Cliff Miller.

She served as student representative on the Oscoda Area Schools Board of Education, vice president of the National Honor Society, and was chosen by her peers as captain of the varsity soccer and swim teams. She also played saxophone in the school band.

Outside of school, Hannah is active in her church, where she contributes musically and helps with food drives. As president of the Oscoda Rotary Interact Club, she organized initiatives that reached both local and global causes, including a community flag-raising ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial Park and support for international service projects. Hannah's record reflects a consistent commitment to leadership and service.

Together, Nina and Hannah show what it means to give back. Their dedication has strengthened the organizations, schools, and neighborhoods they touch—and their impact will continue to inspire others across our communities.

Nominations for 2026 Citizen and Junior Citizen of the Year awards will be open in November 2025.

Community Foundation Celebrates Record-Breaking Scholarship Year



Students receive scholarships from the Tawas Area Education Funds held at ICCF.

The Iosco County Community Foundation awarded a total of $165,698 to 45 students from across Iosco County. Scholarships are awarded to individuals heading off to college, medical school, or to study in a skilled trade or specialty program. Scholarships are made possible because of generous donors who established funds to support Iosco County students. In addition to funds established with ICCF, the Community Foundation also holds scholarship funds for the Tawas Area Education Foundation and Hale Area Education Foundation. *View a complete list of 2025 ICCF Scholarship Recipients at iccf-online.org under "Scholarships".*

Giving Tuesday

December 2, 2025

Giving Tuesday 2025 to Connect and Support Nonprofit Partners

Giving Tuesday, always celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (after the popular shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday), will be held on December 2nd this year. Donors visiting the Community Foundation website on Giving Tuesday can support any of the 13 nonprofits that hold a fund at ICCF, providing them with a source of income to carry out their important missions. Mark your calendar for December 2nd to visit iccf-online.org! You're sure to find something that tugs at your heart strings.

Find these full stories and more at iccf-online.org under "Resources" and "News".

Iosco County 2025 Community Improvement Grants

Through ICCF's 2025 Community Improvement Grant, nine nonprofit organizations in Iosco County received a total of **$20,500** in May 2025. These grants will support special projects that benefit our communities.

- $5,000 to Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center for specialized training of staff in trauma-informed care, forensic interviewing, and multidisciplinary collaboration of children impacted by abuse and neglect.
- $4,000 to Iosco Exploration Trail for bike/hike trail maintenance equipment.
- $3,000 to Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools to build a hoop house on the grounds of the elementary school supporting hands-on agricultural education.
- $2,000 to Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing for boat-building materials for their "Boats Building People" project for at-risk youth to work on constructing boats.
- $2,000 to Huron Pines for conservation projects at Tawas Lake which includes a Tawas Lake Day event, peer-to-peer virtual learning programs, and support for the facilitation of the Lake Huron Forever Pledge.
- $2,000 to Palomino Hope Equine Experience for their "Horse-Powered Reading" project which uses horse interaction to support key literacy skills in an engaging, hands-on environment.
- $1,000 to Huron Hockey & Skating Association to provide free skating opportunities and a back-to-school celebration
- $1,000 to Tawas Wellness Warriors for a project to promote resource sustainability and community well-being by inspiring and educating youth through recycling, reusable initiatives, and hands-on gardening projects.
- $500 to Develop Iosco Inc. for a community mural to be installed at Oscoda Beach Park.

These grants are awarded from the Iosco County Community Improvement Fund, William and Marcia Hopcroft Fund, Iosco County Health Care Initiative Fund, Iosco County Spendable Tobacco Settlement Fund, Iosco County Lakes and Rivers Fund, Iosco County Arts and Humanities Fund, and Iosco County Health Care Fund.

Pictured below: Erick Elgin, a limnologist and water resources educator with MSU Extension, hands off a sample of bladderwort to an attendee of Tawas Lake Day Aug. 8. Bladderwort is a carnivorous plant which feeds on microorganisms and is one of more than 40 native aquatic species occurring in the shallow waters of Tawas Lake. Photo courtesy of Huron Pines.



Grant Highlights



Iosco YAC members Ali, Aleese, Connor, Blake, and Candice visit the room where a child would be interviewed at the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center.

Grants Help Create Safety and Hope for Iosco County Children

Every child deserves to feel safe, heard, and protected. That is the heart of the work at the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC). With the help of two Iosco County Community Foundation grants, NMCAC has been able to both strengthen prevention efforts and deepen the care children receive after trauma.

A $2,500 Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Grant made it possible to expand outreach in local schools and the community—providing body-safety lessons, coloring books, and other materials that give children the words and confidence to speak up if something is wrong. These resources also help parents, caregivers, and teachers recognize signs of abuse and know where to turn for help.

A $5,000 Community Improvement Grant invested in the people who make healing possible: NMCAC's staff. Through specialized training in trauma-informed care, forensic interviewing, and victim advocacy, the team is better equipped to walk alongside children and families in their hardest moments, ensuring each child is met with compassion, skill, and hope for healing.

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors and YAC members had the privilege of touring the center. Walking through the welcoming, child-friendly spaces and talking with staff gave them a firsthand look at how these grants are making a difference. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of this work, and of the care and courage it takes to protect our community's most vulnerable.

Thanks to NMCAC—and the support of our donors who make these grants possible—more children in Iosco County can grow up safer, stronger, and surrounded by a community that refuses to let them face trauma alone.

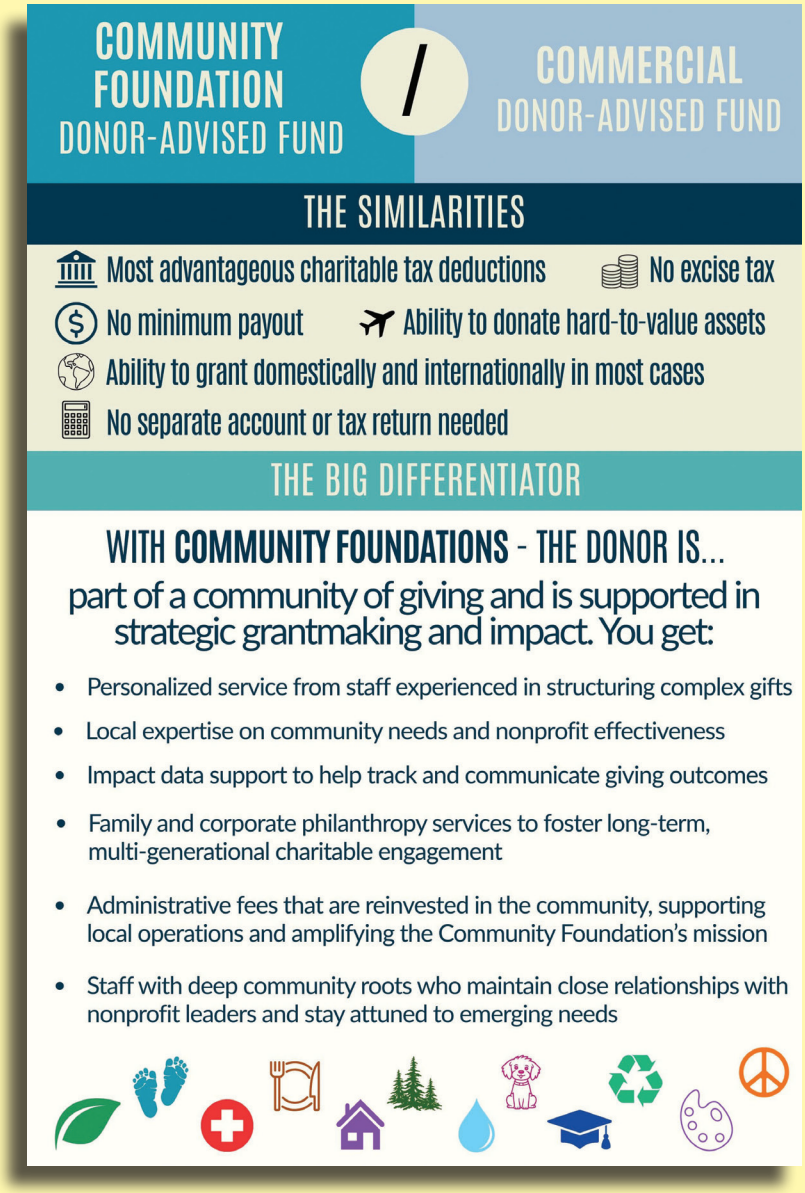
Music is Made Accessible Through Grant

With the help of an ICCF Community Impact Grant, the Quota Club of Iosco County Charitable Foundation purchased and installed instruments and equipment to inspire musical creativity at a playground at Shoreline Park in Tawas City. Now that the project is complete, it is a safe and engaging space for interactive musical learning and play.



Project organizers say these new pieces of equipment are geared towards younger and smaller guests, so they help to make the musical playground more inclusive.

In addition to the new musical equipment, Quota has installed a "Celebration Pathway" in the playground area to allow for easy movement throughout the musical playground, as well as a four-bench seating area.



Knowledge Corner

Consider Your Local Impact

Although a donor-advised fund (DAF) can be established through a national financial institution, the Iosco County Community Foundation offers DAF holders something more: broader services, personal attention, and a deeper connection to the nonprofits whose work is creating lasting change. We work directly with donors to help them achieve their unique philanthropic vision. While there are similarities between commercial and community foundation DAFs, it's the differences that matter most.

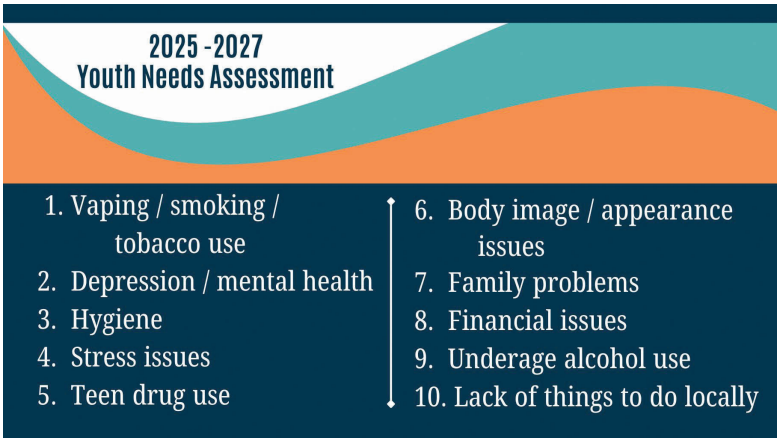
If you already have a commercial DAF, transferring it to the Community Foundation is simple—and we are always happy to answer questions about making the switch.

Another key distinction is impact. With a DAF at the Community Foundation, administrative fees are reinvested locally, supporting community operations and strengthening our mission—rather than flowing to a national institution. This means your philanthropy goes even further.

If you're not ready to transfer your fund, consider naming the Community Foundation to receive annual grants or as the beneficiary of fund assets after your lifetime. We can even establish a legacy fund in your name to carry forward the causes you care about most.

We would love the opportunity to talk with you about how the Community Foundation can help you make the greatest impact with your giving.

What's on the Minds of Iosco County Youth?



Every three years, ICCF and our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) conduct a youth needs assessment surveying youth in Iosco County regarding common issues affecting their peers. The ten issues listed here were the top needs noted by 366 surveyed teens in our county. This assessment is used as a grantmaking framework to assist our YAC in determining grant awards from the Iosco County Kellogg Youth Fund held at ICCF. Notably in these new results, vaping and hygiene have jumped into the top three.

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Youth Advisory Council Works to Address Mental Health

In addition to the $16,000 in youth-related grants awarded by our local Youth Advisory Council (YAC) in 2025, this forward-thinking group of young people worked to address a need of their peers and others in the community.

One of the issues that has shown up consistently over the past nine years for young people in our region is mental health. Our Iosco County Youth Advisory Council members have been committed to doing what they can to support their peers through grantmaking, training, and events. In late spring, our YAC members participated in a special training to help them recognize and support their peers through a mental health crisis; held a community fundraiser with a Macho Volleyball tournament this spring; and used the proceeds to support their "Be the Light" mental health awareness last month. Hats off to our YAC members for striving to tackle this huge topic in unique ways!





ICCF is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan.

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