



In 2018 CFHZ distributed \$138,500 in second and third year payments for multi-year competitive grants to the following organizations:

Benjamin's Hope – Community Integrated Life Enrichment Program

2018 Funding: \$19,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$75,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To provide a new, collaborative service-delivery model that will create meaningful daytime engagement opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why this matters: The need for daytime enrichment opportunities was already significant and growing prior to Kandu's closure but those events have heightened the urgency around new efforts like Benjamin's Hope's program. It is important for our community to offer high-quality support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who for a variety of reasons have been unable to attain employment. These services have a significant impact on the quality of life and personal growth and development of the individuals participating. They also provide a crucial support for families and caregivers and are often essential to making integrated living arrangements sustainable for families and their loved ones with disabilities.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holland – Holland Heights Extension

2018 Funding: \$25,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$75,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To offer a new program site in Holland Heights to enable all young people, especially those who need support most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Why this matters: Through a two year planning process, the BGC staff and board identified Holland Heights as the area with the greatest need for BGC's services and the essential elements that are likely to lead to a successful program. The new Holland Heights site will have a lasting impact on the children and families who are able to access consistent, daily afterschool programming that provides a safe space with caring adults and nurturing activities for students.

Children's Advocacy Center – SMART Therapy

2018 Funding: \$20,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$75,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To bring this innovative, evidence-based approach to therapy to children and youth who have been victims of sexual abuse in our community. SMART (Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment) therapy will add a new array of strategies to the standard mental health therapy repertoire that CAC provides. In a space specifically designed for this program, children can playfully use big pillows, weighted blankets, balance beams, art materials, and other equipment that call for full engagement of the whole body and mind.

Why this matters: Emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal life is exceedingly difficult for children who have experienced complex trauma. Everyday situations at home and school can be very challenging for them to navigate. Without effective support, these challenges can persist and negatively impact victims throughout the rest of their childhood and as adults. SMART therapy can help these children heal and learn to cope with the effects of the trauma they've experienced so that they have the best possible chance for a happy, healthy future.

Children's After School Achievement (CASA), Step Up, and Upward Bound – Program Evaluation

2018 Funding: \$14,500

Total Amount Awarded: \$44,500 over 3 years

Purpose: To assess the impact of these three programs on the economically disadvantaged students they serve compared to other area students from similar demographics who do not participate in the programs.

Why this matters: The shared mission of these three programs is to close the achievement gap among economically disadvantaged students and ultimately prepare them to continue their education beyond high school. Together, CASA (grades 1-5), Step Up (grades 6-8) and Upward Bound (grades 9-12) serve over 300 students a year. The results of the evaluation will be used to strengthen and potentially expand the programs' services through replication and/or additional funding.

Holland Rescue Mission – Gateway Center Vocational Training School

2018 Funding: \$10,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$45,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To develop the internal programmatic structure for a work-based therapy program for homeless men and women to increase their individual ability to sustain themselves through career advancement, addiction recovery, and basic life-skills training, providing local employers with a stable workforce, while mirroring the values of our community.

Why this matters: The Gateway Center Vocational Training School will have a lasting impact on program participants who will be better equipped to maintain employment for the long-term and to build a healthy life for themselves outside of work.

Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates – Immigration Legal Services

2018 Funding: \$5,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$30,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To provide high quality, affordable direct legal services to the chronically under-served immigrant population in Ottawa County.

Why this matters: This program addresses the key barriers of cost, location and language that very often prevent immigrants from accessing the legal processes that exist for their specialized needs. Although our immigration system is complex and expensive to navigate, it does offer a variety of legal options for individuals who aren't currently citizens to live, work and study in the U.S. Many of our local nonprofit organizations work with families where some or all of the family members have difficulty accessing these options because of the specific legal work required. Taking these legal steps would in many cases allow these individuals and families to more fully participate in and contribute to our community. The launch of this program marks a significant improvement in local access to affordable legal services for immigrants and will allow all of our local efforts to serve these families to be more effective.

Michigan Health Endowment Healthy Ottawa Fund

2018 Funding: \$30,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$80,000 over 3 years

Purpose: To invest in new and expanded programs which advance positive action on the priority issues identified in the Ottawa County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The three priority issues are access to health care, mental health, and healthy behaviors (nutrition/exercise). CFHZ and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation have each committed \$80,000 to this fund along with a \$330,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Combined, \$490,000 has been awarded to the following programs:

- **\$40,000** to the **Wayne Elhart be nice. Memorial Fund** to provide matching funds for schools within the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District to offer the "be nice." education program on mental illness awareness and suicide prevention.
- **\$55,000** to **Holland Community Hospital** to expand the School Nursing Program to the high school level in Holland Public Schools.
- **\$70,000** to **TCM Counseling** to extend counseling and school services to the Holland/Zeeland area and to increase counseling and psychiatric services in the Tri-Cities.

- **\$75,000** to **Love INC of the Tri-Cities** to expand the hours of the Free Health Clinic to more broadly meet the needs of the community.
- **\$100,000** to the **Ottawa County Food Policy Council** to expand Project Fresh for seniors, grow the Meet Up and Eat Up Summer Meal program for low-income children, increase access to Community Supported Agriculture, and launch the Prescription for Health program to increase fruit and vegetable consumption.
- **\$150,000** to the **Ottawa County Department of Public Health** to launch Pathways to Better Health, an evidence-based community health worker model that has been proven to reduce health care costs while improving health outcomes for patients.

Why this matters: Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our local hospitals, healthcare providers, the county health department, and numerous community health organizations, we have robust local data about our greatest health needs and a high level of buy-in from key community partners. The Healthy Ottawa Fund brings a critical third piece to this equation by providing an infusion of financial resources to accelerate implementation of the CHIP's recommended strategies.

Outdoor Discovery Center - ecoSystem Education Network

2018 Funding: \$15,000

Total Amount Awarded: \$65,000 over 3 years

Purpose: The ecoSystem Education Network builds on the success of the ODC outdoor education model for the benefit of the entire community. Through a multi-faceted approach of strategic visioning, classroom modeling, nature playscape design, and professional development, ecoSystem will provide teachers and schools with the resources needed to offer nature-based learning opportunities to the students and families they serve.

Why this matters: Research shows that children in the U.S. are spending, on average, less than an hour outside every day. At the same time, there is substantial evidence of the positive impact that time outdoors has on children's physical and mental health as well as educational outcomes. A critical, evidence-based strategy for shifting this dynamic involves schools integrating nature-based education and increasing academic and recreational time outdoors. Through ecoSystem, ODC will equip local educators to bring this approach into schools and classrooms throughout our community which will allow significantly more children to experience nature-based education on a daily basis.