



community foundation
Holland/Zeeland Area

2017 Competitive Grants—1st Round

Holland Film Group— People, Place and Possibilities: A Story of Immigrants and Entrepreneurs

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Request Type: New program for one-time and/or ongoing expenses

Purpose: To produce a feature-length documentary telling the story of Holland Michigan with the working title, "People, Place and Possibilities: A Story of Immigrants and Entrepreneurs." The film will tell how Holland became an economically dynamic and culturally diverse community and will focus on the area's defining values with the goal of sharing them with students, residents, visitors and potential business owners and employees.

Why this matters? Many local residents, especially students, as well as newcomers and visitors, do not understand all that Holland is and how it came to be. A high-quality, documentary film is the perfect way to preserve, explain and tell the unique story that is Holland, MI for decades to come. This documentary will serve as an important resource to educators and students in their local history units and will provide Holland visitors with the opportunity to view the film at the Holland Museum and other locations in the community.

City of Zeeland – Elm Street Park

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

Request Type: Capital

Purpose: To create a downtown Zeeland park that will provide a winter location for a formal ice rink as well as a dedicated location for event programming, picnicking and gathering space throughout the warmer seasons.

Why this matters? Similar to the Splash Pad Park, the Elm Street Park will serve as a link across generations. It will be a place where kids, parents, grandparents and professionals can all gather, relax, establish healthy recreation habits, and embrace the Zeeland community. Enhancing the center of Downtown Zeeland through the establishment of this park encourages walkable and healthy community for the many neighborhoods surrounding downtown's central business district. An important part of Zeeland's vision and goal for Culture, Parks and Recreation is expanding and/or enhancing activities and places that enrich the experience of living in and visiting the City of Zeeland.

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance – Allies Working for Social Justice and Environmental Progress

Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Request Type: Research and Planning

Purpose: To support the planning and implementation of the Allies project that brings together community members to engage in dialogue and develop action steps meant to address the growing divide amongst community members.

Why this matters? The racial and ethnic demographics of our region, our state, and our country are changing—we are becoming more diverse. However, alongside changing demographics are persistent inequities. For a community to thrive, community members must feel supported to perform their various life functions and achieve maximum potential. Empowerment is core to community organizing, where those who participate feel some level of control and awareness over

their situations and the power to facilitate change. The Allies group has early momentum and has successfully facilitated an environment of constructive dialogue on topics that are often filled with tension. The Allies group will provide support and advancement surrounding eight specific issues: immigration policy, racial justice, women's issues, LGBTQ equity, religious tolerance, environmental protection, hate crimes, and school bullying.

Eighth Day Farm – A New Growth Center

Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Request Type: Capital

Purpose: To renovate the building at 709 Pine Avenue (called the Growth Center) to meet code, providing much needed space for education, an organization office, and community gatherings. A New Growth Center will broaden and strengthen the mission of Eighth Day Farm in Holland by creating a licensed facility to pack our New Fast Food bags, a venue for the urban youth growers program, instruction in food preparation and preservation, workshops and an increased capacity to offer field trips to area schools.

Why this matters? There exists in the Holland/Zeeland area a need for access to healthy food, education on the connection between diet and health outcomes, and the training of a new generation of food producers. This renovation will allow Eighth Day Farm to significantly expand the work they have been doing for years.

Great Start Collaborative – Help Me Grow-Ottawa

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Request Type: New program for one-time and/or ongoing expenses

Purpose: Help Me Grow-Ottawa helps support families with children prenatal through age five to navigate the early childhood system in the Ottawa County area. The program helps to ensure families have up to date information on childcare, preschool, and kindergarten; supports families in completing developmental screenings; answers questions related to pregnancy and links families to local playgroups and other community resources. Specifically grant funds are sought to launch a large-scale marketing campaign and to create and implement the program's evaluation tool.

Why this matters? The Great Start Collaborative—Ottawa releases a family survey annually. Over the past several years, a recurring data point is that families are unsure of where to go within the community to get information. Help Me Grow-Ottawa is an existing website resource where all of this information is brought together. With a marketing campaign focused on becoming more widely known and used, Help Me Grow-Ottawa can become a vital tool for families in the community.