

Grant Information

The Cook Family Foundation invests in community organizations that are committed to positive change, both within Shiawassee County and within the organization itself. We make grants to community institutions which desire to better serve the residents of Shiawassee County through new activities, improved programs, or collaborative initiatives. Strong preference is given to grants that are part of an organizational self-improvement plan and enable the growth and/or enhance the quality of a nonprofit institution. Rather than just make a gift of financial resources, the Cook Family Foundation seeks to invest in the mission, and the future, of an organization.

What are the criteria for grant applications?

The Cook Family Foundation commits funding to projects which strengthen community institutions, extend their mission, or enable their growth. Grant requests should meet the following four criteria:

- 1 Will the grant request fund an activity central to the adopted mission of an organization and does the grant implement the organization's strategic plan?
- 2 Will the grant enable an organization to expand its programs, the number of people served, membership, volunteers, public support, and/or financial base?
- 3 Does the organization have a plan in place to sustain the new growth or make permanent new changes after grant funds are expended?
- 4 Is the grant request part of a comprehensive and long-term financial strategy that leverages additional resources, involves grants or donations from other sources, and/or is matched by investment of the organization itself?

What types of grants are given?

Our goal is to help initiate change and growth within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial support for programs, facilities, equipment, staffing, professional development, contracted services, or other tools for positive change. In order to carry out our mission and assist a variety of good causes, we cannot provide on-going support to organizations.

Where are grants made?

The Foundation focuses its grant making on Shiawassee County and seeks to support institutions that serve the residents of Shiawassee County. We prefer to fund

organizations that are based in our community; at a minimum, applicants should have strong representation of Shiawassee County residents in their governance system. Grants for environmental purposes are made to protect the natural areas defined by the watershed of the Shiawassee River. The only significant grants made outside of Shiawassee County are to the University of Michigan and the State YMCA of Michigan.

What size grants are available?

The Foundation typically makes grants of between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Sometimes we have made effective grants for smaller amounts, and on a few occasions we have made larger grants for very promising and significant endeavors. We prefer one-time grants, but have also made multi-year commitments to help initiate projects.

Are there any areas of interest?

The Cook Family Foundation does not seek to promote any particular cause or address only certain concerns. Rather, we desire to help community organizations grow and be successful in the mission they have set for themselves. We are open to funding a wide variety of issue areas.

Are there any limitations on grants?

The Cook Family Foundation does not give grants for religious purposes and upholds federal law which prohibits the expenditure of funds for political campaigns or direct lobbying activities. With the exception of scholarships, we do not give grants to individuals.

Grant Application Deadlines

The Cook Family Foundation accepts grant applications throughout the year and reviews those applications at least twice a year. First consideration will be given to grant applications submitted by April 1. Applications for the end of the year should be made no later than November 1. The Foundation establishes a total annual grant budget in January for that year and addresses applications on a first-come, first-served basis within that budget.

Where should grant requests be submitted?

A Grant Application is available. Contact:

Tom Cook
Executive Director
P.O. Box 278
Owosso, MI 48867
tom_cook@chartermi.net

Shiawassee Nonprofit Capacity Academy

The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program of the Shiawassee United Way offers educational seminars to staff, board members and volunteers of community organizations. Two more sessions will be available in the coming months:

Seminar: Evaluation

Date: May 14, 2008

Participants will explore various evaluation models, including the Dashboard framework, will understand process and program evaluation, and will understand development of goals and measurable objectives; will develop evaluation strategies for one program; and will develop an appropriate budget for evaluation.

Presenter: Karin E. Tice, Partner, Formative Evaluation Research Associates

Seminar: Financial Management and Leadership

Date: July 9, 2008

Participants will learn how to promote financial health for their organization through high level financial management. Participants will explore the latest trends in leadership for nonprofit organizations.

Presenters: Peggy Jury, CPA, Partner; Kellie Goines, Manager, Plante and Moran Not-for-Profit Services Group; and Mike Corbin, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Michigan Nonprofit Association

To register, or for more information about these seminars, please contact Pamela Drake at the Shiawassee United Way, 989.723.4987.

New Grant Application is Available!

See "Grant Information" inside, or contact:

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The Cook Family Foundation

PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

OBJECTIVE

Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth.

FOCUS AREAS

- Shiawassee County
- Education and Youth
- Environment
- University of Michigan
- Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

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Thomas Cook, *Secretary & Treasurer*
Jacqueline Cook, *Trustee*
Paul Cook, *Trustee*
Anna Owens, *Trustee*



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Building Capacity to Do Good

Building to last requires plans and tools, as well as skill and effort.

Through the Shiawassee United Way, the Cook Family Foundation sponsors the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program (NCBP) to help local organizations take on their work more effectively and efficiently. So far, seven nonprofits have been part of a process of review, education, planning, and self-improvement. In addition, over a hundred staff and board members from many other organizations are gaining new skills and knowledge through education seminars and other training opportunities. The result has been new strategic plans, new programs and processes, and an infusion of resources, all helping nonprofits have the increased ability to carry out their mission in our community.

In Shiawassee County, like most communities, we rely on nonprofit organizations to build us up. Nonprofits enrich our life through the arts and entertainment, take care of our neediest neighbors, give recreation and education opportunities to our kids, promote our local economy, and provide healthcare and many other services. Nonprofits are truly the foundation of community life.

But how do we help nonprofits build their own capacity to build up the community? Many of our nonprofit organizations are small, have limited staff, or struggle to put together an annual budget to meet the needs they serve. Most of them do good work, but cannot do all they could because of limited staff, programs, or funding. And all of us can be more effective and efficient in the work we do.

In 2006, the Shiawassee United Way initiated the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program to improve the knowledge, skills and capacity of area nonprofits to improve their organizational governance, management, and service delivery. This has been accomplished through seminars put on by the Michigan Nonprofit Association, professional assessments of participating organizations, hard work by volunteer boards and their executive directors, and the support and guidance of program consultant Carol Vaughn.

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Build up the Community
Helps Local Organizations
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program
Inside:

Owosso, MI 48867
P.O. Box 278

The Cook Family
Foundation



“Nonprofits are truly the foundation of community life.”

— Tom Cook
Executive Director
Cook Family Foundation



Participation in the capacity building program enabled Looking Glass Community Services to support the hiring of its second executive director, Andrew Highland, pictured on the right to succeed founding director, Dave Dragoo, on the left. Board chair Tom Schneider stands between them.



The Cook Family Foundation

2007 Grants

Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, the Cook Family Foundation strives to strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth. Our goal is to help initiate change and growth within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial support for programs, facilities, equipment, staffing, professional development, contracted services, or other tools for positive change. Each year the Cook Family Foundation reviews grant proposals from community organizations with emphasis on key areas as highlighted in this listing of projects funded in 2007.

NCBP Expands

Four more agencies are currently going through the intensive evaluation and planning phase of the **Non-Profit Capacity Building Program**:

ARC Shiawassee is part of a national voluntary effort devoted solely to promoting the welfare of persons with developmental disabilities and their families

Shiawassee Humane Society seeks to ensure humane treatment of companion animals in need by finding permanent homes for adoptable pets, providing shelter, engaging in public advocacy, and educating the community.

Shiawassee County Child Abuse Prevention Council works to improve the quality of life of children by preventing abuse and neglect. They operate both the Child Advocacy Center and the Baby Pantry.

Shiawassee United Way has a mission to unite people and other resources to improve and strengthen the quality of life for all people in Shiawassee County.

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In 2007, three local nonprofits completed the very thorough capacity building program process and were awarded completion grants of \$22,000 to \$28,000 by the Cook Family Foundation. These grants helped each organization take a major strategic step forward in their growth and their capacity to meet their mission.

Here are their inspirational stories...

The Shiawassee Arts Council: A Blueprint for Success

Shiawassee Arts Council (SAC) has been supporting the arts in Shiawassee County for more than 35 years and is currently in a growth stage in its evolution as an organization.

With a strong base of 1,000 members and 300 participating artists, SAC sponsors art shows and classes, brings art to school children through “Gallery on the Go,” and promotes the arts in our community with both success and respect. For SAC, the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program sparked a period of renewal whereby staff and the board have taken stock of the organization and implemented several human resources improvements to improve the delivery of services, added new board policies, and adopted an annual fund development plan.

The planning undertaken by SAC identified that the lack of space and facilities limited the growth of the organization. Working with a local architect, SAC designed a 7200 square foot expansion of their gallery; several key donations, including the Cook Family Foundation’s completion grant, will enable the growth of the gallery and the organization. “NCBP helped our organization to focus on strengthening our structural capacity in order to successfully meet the growing needs of our programs, projects and activities,” says Piper Brewer, director of SAC.

A 7200 square foot expansion is planned for the Shiawassee Arts Center, with the support of NCBP funding.

Respite: Equipped to Ease the Heavy Load

Respite Volunteers supports caregivers of adults in Shiawassee County with an array of services including education, referrals, and short-term volunteer support that allows caregivers a respite from their duties.

In the last few years, the organization has grown to be a countywide agency and in 2007 served 202 patients and their caregivers. Respite volunteers provided 9,524 hours of service to those in need in our community.

The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program helped Respite Volunteers realize the value in understanding better who they serve and how best to meet community needs. A number of surveys, focus groups, and better data collection were undertaken to help shape the services that Respite provides. The information collected also informed the marketing and fundraising activities of the organization. “NCBP has been life changing for me and our board,” said Executive Director, Helen Howard. “We are now better prepared to fulfill our mission despite a challenging economic situation in Shiawassee County.”



Respite’s hiring of additional staff member Peggy Garikes (right) was made possible with a grant from the Cook Family Foundation. Shown with Peggy is Hila Beaufore.

During the NCBP process, Respite had to relocate offices due to a fire, and while challenging, this enabled the organization to move to a more sustainable basis. With a completion grant from the Cook Family Foundation, Respite added a second staff person, purchased office equipment, and begun a marketing program. All of this expands the capacity of the organization to raise funds and awareness, support more volunteers, and be of greater service to those in need.

Looking Glass Community Services: Laying a Strong Foundation

Looking Glass Community Services was established in 2001 to address the root causes of poverty in southwest Shiawassee County, with a target of families under stress, at-risk youth, and the isolated elderly.

As the new organization had success tackling some significant community needs, it became clear that LGCS needed a plan for the future. The board held several retreats, and through the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program did an assessment of the organization and developed a strategic plan. A consultant helped them put together a three-year business plan and budget, a marketing plan to help raise awareness and donations, and new by-laws and several policy handbooks. “All of this work was very helpful in building a stronger foundation for the organization,” according to founding director David Dragoo. “It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for LGCS.”

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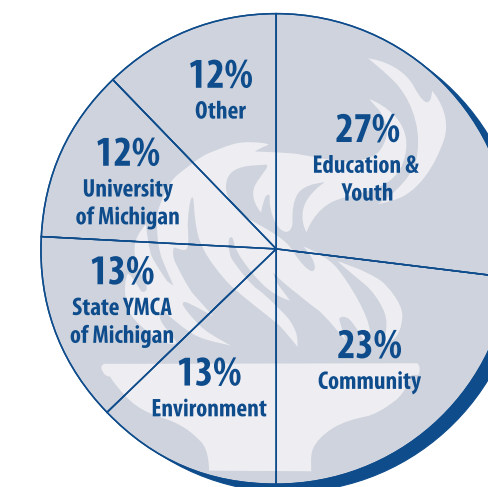
— Dave Dragoo

With clear plans and a strong organizational foundation in place, the Cook Family Foundation awarded LGCS funds to add and extend several programs for youth and families, undertake new communications efforts, and establish their first public office at the Moon Lake Mobile Home Park. Perhaps most significantly, with its newfound capacity the organization was able to handle the transition of their founding executive director to new management, a key milestone for any new organization.

Community Institutions	\$199,050
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	
NCBP Education and Support	\$56,029
Looking Glass Community Services	28,000
Shiawassee Arts Council	26,525
Respite Volunteers	22,000
Shiawassee United Way Expansion & Staffing	11,667
Capital Area Community Service-Homeownership	41,420
Catholic Charities-Shiawassee Hunger Network	7,809
Memorial Healthcare-Site Plan	5,600
Education and Youth	\$143,413
Owosso Public Schools	
International Baccalaureate	\$31,581
OPS Foundation	10,000
Performing Arts	4,678
Shiawassee Regional Education Service District	
Shiawassee Scholars	\$72,081
Shiawassee Great Start (Early Childhood)	10,500
Junior Achievement	5,000
Other Education and Youth	\$9,573
Environment	\$138,895
Nature Conservancy: Shiawassee River Project	\$118,895
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network	20,000

University of Michigan	\$84,537
Scholarships and Support	\$84,537
State YMCA of Michigan	\$21,110
Scholarships to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps	\$21,110
Additional Financials	
Administration and Dues	\$45,873
Communications	10,307
Taxes	7,500
Other Grants	3,687

Total Disbursements \$654,372



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling nearly \$2.9 million in five main areas.