



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.

STAFF

Tom Cook, *Executive Director*
Robin Lynn Grinnell, *Program Officer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Cook, *President*
Laurie Caszatt Cook, *Vice President*
Thomas Cook, *Secretary & Treasurer*
Jacqueline Cook, *Trustee*
Paul Cook, *Trustee*
Anna Owens, *Trustee*



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Our website is LIVE! In 2010, the Cook Family Foundation was invited to participate in a Council of Michigan Foundations' pilot project, focused on developing websites for family foundations throughout Michigan. Visit us at www.cookfamilyfoundation.org

Practicing What We Preach

Over the past several years, the Cook Family Foundation has encouraged local nonprofits to "build their capacity to achieve their mission." We proudly trumpet the achievements of our Champions and look forward to strengthening our partnerships as a funder and partner in change.

But the Foundation too has learned the necessity of building our own effectiveness; ensuring we have the capacity to continue to meet our mission. As a result, we have created a web page and brought on Robin Lynn Grinnell as our first-ever Program Officer in May 2010. Robin's primary goal is to provide direct support to local nonprofit board and staff. Feel free to contact her with questions regarding grant opportunities or capacity building services.

We hope that the changes outlined in this report more clearly define our grant-making process and make our services more accessible. We welcome your feedback. We are privileged to have this opportunity to grow with our community, and we look forward to celebrating our collective success.

The Owosso Community Players grew through board training, a technology assessment and upgrade, and strategic planning. The completion grant allowed us to improve the theater experience in our Studio Theater. We are now ready to rebuild a Performing Arts Center for the community.

— Linda Keenan, Executive Director
Owosso Community Players



NEW Opportunity: Collaborative Venture Grants

To promote sustainable and creative community problem-solving, the Cook Family Foundation invites organizations to apply jointly for a Collaborative Venture Grant. While at least one of the primary applicants must be a Capacity Building Champion, partners may be from other sectors. We encourage you to contact us to discuss your idea prior to submitting an application or funding proposal.

- **Planning/Pilot Grant** – Up to \$10,000 for one year to conduct community needs assessment; organize a collaborative body; and/or implement a pilot project with a structured evaluation plan
- **Incubator/Seed Funding** – Up to \$20,000/year for up to 3 years to allow for start-up phase of new project (partial cash match required)

NEW Opportunity: Training Scholarships

To promote ongoing learning and professional development, the Cook Family Foundation will provide training scholarships of up to \$500 to individual staff or board members of our partner nonprofit agencies. Visit www.cookfamilyfoundation.org for the Training Scholarship Request.

The New & Improved NCBP New Model

For several years, the Cook Family Foundation has supported the Shiawassee Nonprofit Capacity Building Program (NCBP). With the goal of building stronger nonprofits to serve the Shiawassee Community, the NCBP offers a variety of options for building organizational effectiveness. If you have questions about how your nonprofit can become involved, please visit our website www.cookfamilyfoundation.org or contact Robin Lynn Grinnell at robin@cookfamilyfoundation.org or 989-725-1621.



CAPACITY BUILDING CHAMPION CRITERIA

Your Organization will be considered for a Capacity Building Champion designation when you have completed Steps One, Two and Three above,



- Board members have participated in a Board Orientation Session (offered in Winter and Fall of each year)
- Board and staff have participated in the Principles & Practices for Nonprofit Excellence in Michigan Boot Camp (a two-day commitment, offered every 18 months)
- You have a current Strategic Plan guiding your activities
- Your organization employs a full-time executive director

Capacity Building Champions receive “preferred grant status” from the Cook Family Foundation, support letters for other grant-seeking activities, and recognition in Cook Family Foundation print materials and website.



The
Cook Family
Foundation

2010 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 2010.

Community Institutions \$151,584

Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$17,293
Owosso Community Players	\$38,439
Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc (RAVE)	\$24,811
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$25,000
Shiawassee United Way	\$6,875
Steam Railroading Institute	\$37,166

Education and Youth \$125,130

Owosso Public Schools	
International Baccalaureate	\$42,261
Performing Arts Committee	\$6,842
Shiawassee Regional Education Service District	
Shiawassee Scholars	\$73,397
Other Education and Youth	\$2,630

Environment \$72,000

The Nature Conservancy	\$62,000
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$10,000

State YMCA of Michigan \$20,000

Camperships to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps	\$20,000
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University of Michigan \$107,382

Scholarships and Support	\$97,382
Michigan Quarterly Review, Great Lakes Issue Conference	\$10,000

Additional Financials

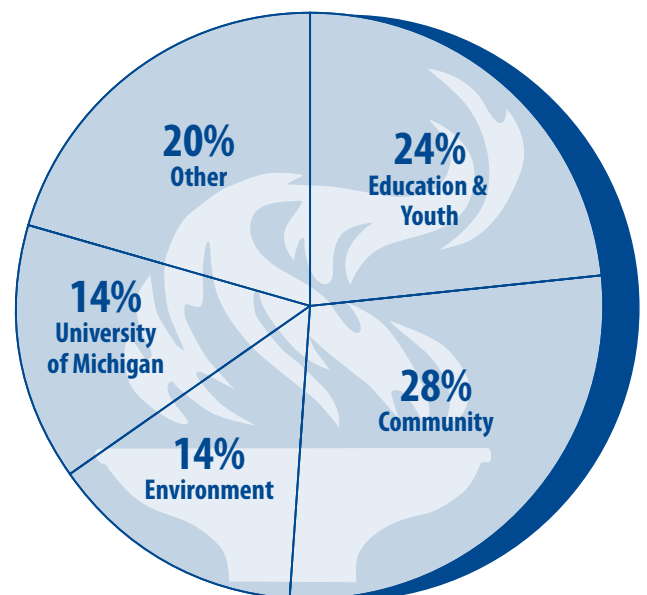
Administration and Dues	\$109,106
Communications	\$1,355
Other Grants	\$2,600
Professional Services	\$5,329

Total Disbursements \$594,486

Grant Materials

You can find materials related to our Grant Application process at www.cookfamilyfoundation.org

- Grant Application
- Grant Criteria
- Grant FAQs



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling nearly \$2.4 million in five main areas.

Our Newest Class of Capacity Building Champions

From 2009 – 2010, three local nonprofits participated in the Shiawassee Nonprofit Capacity Building Program (details inside). In recognition of their efforts, these organizations have achieved the status of Nonprofit Capacity Building Champions! This designation will afford them “preferred grant status” with the Cook Family Foundation in addition to making them more attractive to other funders, volunteers and their constituents. We are happy to share in their success!



In recognition of their successful participation in the NCBP, **Owosso Community Players** received a \$30,000 completion grant to support the renovation of The Studio Theater. The Studio Theater provides a performing arts venue during the rebuild of the Lebowsky Center, and will provide an ongoing resource to the community in years to come as a venue for myriad artists and special events.



The board and staff of **Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc (RAVE)** engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process that brought cohesion and focus to their team. They received a completion grant award of up to \$30,000 (spanning 2010-2011) to continue their work in the areas of communication, marketing and re-branding as well as technology system upgrades.



Steam Railroading Institute engaged in two intensive years of assessment, coaching, and restructuring before receiving their completion grant. The \$30,000 grant was used to contract with a well-respected fund development consultant to guide them through a transition in their annual campaign and develop a capital campaign for the restoration and sustained use of their beloved steam locomotive, the Pere Marquette 1225.

Look inside to see how your organization can become a Capacity Building Champion! Visit our website at www.cookfamilyfoundation.org for grant applications and more detailed information.

Inside:

The Cook Family Foundation
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