



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.

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Robin Lynn Grinnell, *Program Officer*

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Graphic Design: Amber Fuller
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Foundation Sets Goals for 2012

The Cook Family Foundation seeks to improve our community through strengthening the organizations that serve the residents of Shiawassee County. Now in its seventh year, the Foundation's Nonprofit Capacity Building Program has helped local groups be more effective in meeting their own, unique missions. As these nonprofits increase their capacity, the health of our community improves.

Over the last year, a planning process conducted by the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce and the MSU Land Policy Institute, and funded by the Cook Family Foundation, has helped us all think more deliberately about what the future should be for our region, as defined by the boundaries and communities that mark Shiawassee County.

These discussions have challenged the Foundation to think more clearly about what its contributions should be to our region. Thus, we have set five goals to guide our work for the next few years. However, we believe that we can achieve these objectives only by working with our nonprofit partners and the community as a whole.



The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program has allowed Durand Union Station Inc. to accomplish more than I could have imagined. The process allows us to focus on the big picture while strengthening day-to-day operations. We are also collaborating with the Steam Railroading Institute, seeking out common goals to improve our community.

— Mary Warner-Stone, Executive Director
Durand Union Station, Inc.

Five goals will guide the work of the Cook Family Foundation in 2012 and the years beyond as we work with local partners to improve our community. These goals bring focus to our work with the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, our engagement in community partnerships, and our grant making.



Foster the Shiawassee River as a source of pride for the community.

The Shiawassee River has defined our community from the beginning: it provided transportation and livelihood for our first settlers; it ties together several cities in which we live and do business; and it is our most significant natural feature, providing a healthy environment, water recreation, and a name for our County. The Cook Family Foundation has provided, and will continue to provide, grant funds to organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, the Shiawassee Conservation District, and the Friends of the Shiawassee River.



Promote the performing arts as a strong cultural cornerstone of the community.

The Performing Arts make our community a special place. Theater, music, and other live arts entertain us and provide special opportunities for us to gather as a diverse community. Theater also provides a platform for young people to gain key skills and self-confidence to succeed in school, career, and beyond. The Cook Family Foundation is proud to partner with the Performing Arts Committee of the Owosso Public Schools, the Owosso Community Players and others to provide a well-rounded, quality arts experience for our local community.



Help care for and protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

The health of our community can be measured by how well we protect young children, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, and other vulnerable neighbors. We support the important work of the Child Abuse Prevention Council, SafeCenter (formerly RAVE), The Arc Shiawassee, Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee and the Shiawassee Council on Aging.



Encourage the highest level of academic success for our community's young people.

In our first year, 1978, we provided a grant to our local schools and a scholarship to the University of Michigan. In 2012 we will work with the Shiawassee Regional Educational Service District to refine and improve the Shiawassee Scholars program; will continue to help the Owosso Public Schools expand its International Baccalaureate (IB) program to be a K-12 curriculum; and will continue our University of Michigan scholarship program.



Build community appreciation for our shared railroad heritage.

Our Railroad Heritage is a unique point of pride in Shiawassee County, and several community organizations have worked to preserve and promote railroad history. Over the years, the Cook Family Foundation has provided a number of grants to the Steam Railroading Institute to help establish Owosso as the home of the 1225 steam locomotive that served as the model for the movie, Polar Express. In the last year, we have provided support to the Durand Union Station, Inc. and the National Railroad Memorial, Inc., two organizations seeking to promote rail history in downtown Durand.



The
Cook Family
Foundation

2011 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 promote sustainability 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 2011.

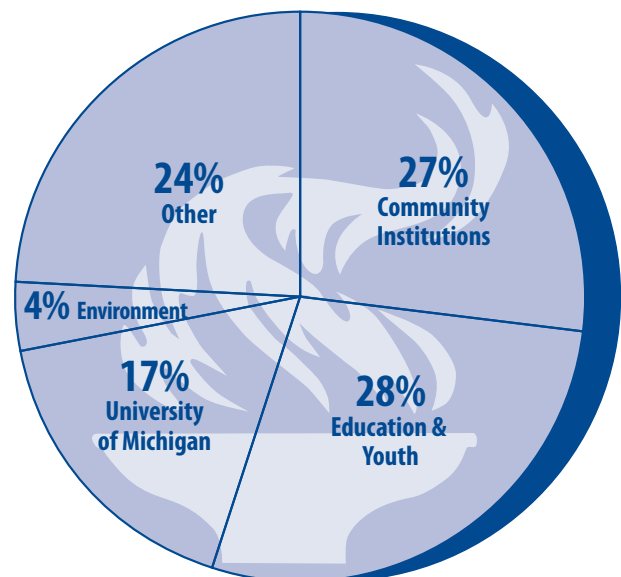
Community Institutions	\$147,607
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$51,551
American Red Cross – Mid Michigan	\$2,475
Child Abuse Prevention Council	\$24,260
Durand Union Station, Inc.	\$281
Friends of the Shiawassee River	\$5,663
National Railroad Memorial, Inc.	\$2,380
Respite Volunteers	\$8,425
SafeCenter (formerly RAVE)	\$15,050
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$25,000
Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$10,372
Steam Railroading Institute	\$300
The Arc Shiawassee	\$1,850
Education and Youth	\$152,921
Great Start Shiawassee	\$20,000
Owosso Public Schools	
International Bacculaureate	\$69,961
Performing Arts Committee	\$840
Shiawassee Regional Educations Services District	
Shiawassee Scholars	\$60,231
Other Education and Youth	\$1,889

Environment	\$21,000
DeVries Nature Conservancy	\$1,000
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$20,000
State YMCA of Michigan	\$21,283
Camperships to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps	\$20,000
Capacity Building Support	\$1,283
University of Michigan	\$107,382
Scholarships	\$76,500
Scholarship Support	\$16,923
Additional Financials	
Administration, Office and Dues	\$88,219
Communications	\$1,120
Other Grants	\$6,100
Professional Services	\$5,693
Total Disbursements	\$537,366

Grant Materials

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

- Grant Application
- Grant Criteria
- Grant FAQs



Volunteers Needed!

Throughout the history of the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, the Cook Family Foundation has focused the majority of its efforts on building the individual strength of local organizations. Through this process we have identified a few common challenges, one of which is the universal need to cultivate a larger pool of volunteers to serve our community.

To address this issue, Cook Family Foundation convened a group of nonprofit executives and volunteer managers and asked the question, "How can we help?" Three opportunities were identified:

1. **Develop a volunteer managers network to facilitate relationships and resource sharing**
2. **Provide training opportunities for those who manage volunteers and volunteer programs**
3. **Promote volunteer opportunities county wide**



THERE'S A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

To advance our efforts in this area, the nonprofit community initiated a yearlong campaign, "2012: The Year to Volunteer." The core message of the campaign is, "There's a place for everyone." Throughout the year, we will conduct a print media campaign as well as a variety of events to promote the wide array of volunteer needs and opportunities that exist throughout Shiawassee County. Local agencies will promote short- and long-term volunteer opportunities that demand a wide array of talents and skills. We see this campaign as a critical component to our nonprofit capacity building efforts: money allows the work to happen but PEOPLE get the work done.

2011 Grant Report

Foundation defines goals for the future!

Inside:

Owosso, MI 48867

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