



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2014

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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CONTACT US

P.O. Box 278
Owosso, Michigan 48867
Ph: 989.725.1621
tom@cookfamilyfoundation.org
www.cookfamilyfoundation.org

Cover Photo: Jessica Thompson,
Community Education Director,
Owosso Public Schools

Graphic Design: Amber L. Fuller

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The Owosso Public School District's IB instructional method is connecting all grade levels of their students' learning to the real world – kindergarten through graduation.

International Baccalaureate Programme: Making a World of Difference

How do we help all children succeed in school, and beyond? How do we ensure the highest level of academic performance for students in our public schools?

These are questions the Cook Family Foundation has sought to help answer through its active involvement and its grant-making. In 2007, we began to make investments to help bring the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme to the Owosso Public Schools. Over \$300,000 in grants to the Owosso Public Schools have enabled the training and professional development of more than 150 teachers and administrators in IB teaching methods at all grade levels.

The purpose of the IB model of instruction is to help students be adaptable problem solvers, make real world connections to their subject matter, and explore global issues. As one fifth grade teacher reported "It is important to get students to think!" The IB curriculum focuses on helping students to become self-directed learners able to gather, analyze, and apply knowledge. The most measurable success has been Middle Years Programme certification for grades 6-10, including the Owosso Middle School. As the Owosso Public Schools prepare its students for the future, the IB approach to teaching will make a world of difference.

"Teachers are collaborating across the disciplines so that students experience learning that is more relevant. We are beginning to see wonderful crossover in project based learning that leads to community action and service toward the betterment of our world."

— Dr. Kari Selleck
Curriculum Director
Owosso Public Schools

6 Goals for 2014



Six goals will guide the work of the Cook Family Foundation in 2014 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.

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

The first grants ever given by the Foundation were a scholarship to the University of Michigan and support for improvements at Owosso High School. We will continue to provide a scholarship to every high school graduate from the Shiawassee County region who attends the University of Michigan. In 2014 we are working with the Shiawassee Post-secondary Access Network (SPAN) to help more students be prepared for, and take advantage of, college and training opportunities.



Expand the capacity of community-based nonprofits to more effectively carry out their mission and serve the residents of Shiawassee County.

Our Nonprofit Capacity Building Program provides professional development and technical assistance to local nonprofits, and the Foundation will make further strategic investments in community organizations to enable their growth.



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

In addition to its ongoing support for the Friends of the Shiawassee River, in 2014 the Foundation initiates a multi-year effort with The Nature Conservancy to apply science and economics to reduce polluted runoff. Because the Shiawassee River flows into Saginaw Bay, the Foundation partners with other funders through the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network.



Promote the arts and history as strong cultural cornerstones of the community.

Perhaps the most exciting news in 2014 in both the arts and history will be the re-opening of the former Capitol Theater as the Shiawassee Performing Arts Center in downtown Owosso. The Foundation has invested in this restoration and is working now to support the organizational growth of the Owosso Community Players to take advantage of this new theater.



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

Several human service organizations are part of the Foundation's Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, and the Foundation will look for ways to support cooperative efforts to help those in need, such as the Great Start Shiawassee early childhood collaborative.



Increase opportunities for community collaboration and engagement among and between local nonprofits, arts organizations, government, students, and citizens.

"None of us alone is as smart as all of us together" is a value embodied in the Foundation's support for truly cooperative efforts to tackle community challenges. In 2014, we are actively looking to help organizations initiate collaborations. We will also continue the Owosso Fellowship which brings together students supported by Foundation scholarships to work in local nonprofits and to learn with each other and the community.

Visit our updated web site at www.cookfamilyfoundation.org





The
Cook Family
Foundation

2013 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 2013.

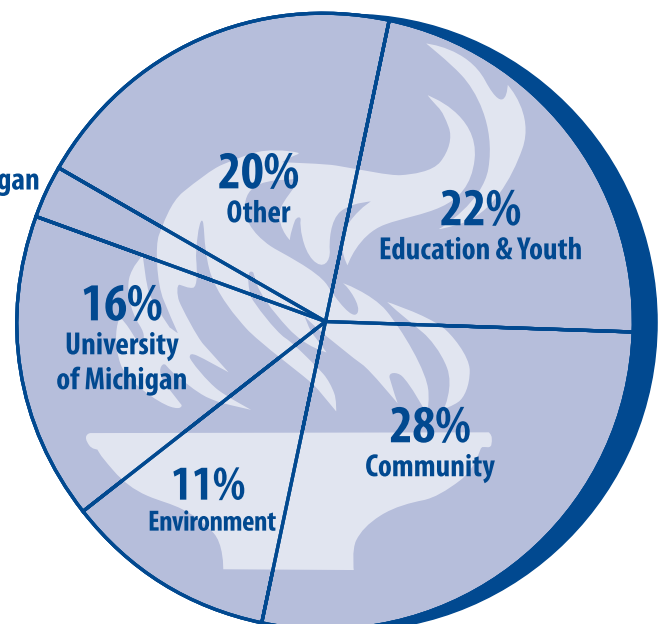
Community Institutions	\$176,117	State YMCA of Michigan	\$25,000
Owosso Community Players	\$92,500	Camp Hayo-Went-Ha (Bonbright Lodge)	\$25,000
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$25,000	University of Michigan	\$90,814
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$24,829	Scholarships	\$73,250
Owosso Fellowship Program	\$15,567	Scholarship Support	\$17,564
Other Community Grants	\$11,025	Additional Financials	
Other Arts Grants	\$7,196	Administration & Associated Costs	\$92,211
Education and Youth	\$116,776	Office Expenses and Memberships	\$31,358
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District		Professional Services & Fees	\$5,279
Shiawassee Scholars	\$60,000	Communications	\$3,327
Owosso Public Schools IB Programme	\$54,000	Other Grants	\$2,500
OPS Performing Arts	\$2,276	Total Disbursements	\$670,999
Other Education and Youth	\$500		
Environment	\$127,617		
The Nature Conservancy	\$104,779		
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative	\$20,000		
DeVries Nature Conservancy	\$2,838		

Grant Materials

Go to www.cookfamilyfoundation.org to find out more about:

- Scholarship Information
- Grant Criteria
- Grant Application
- Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

3%
State YMCA of Michigan



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$2.3 million dollars in six primary areas.

A WIN-Win Collaboration

The Cook Family Foundation supports collaboration (see story on Page 2), but what is good for nonprofits is also good for foundations.

For more than 10 years, the Foundation has been part of the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), an affiliation of not only funders, but also organizations and individuals working to build an environmentally healthy and sustainable economy in Michigan's largest watershed. The Shiawassee River defines the southern edge of this watershed and it flows north to form, along with four other streams, the Saginaw River.

The WIN collaboration brings together funders who pool their grant dollars, and a group of committed individuals who help develop, review, and recommend projects in the areas of water resources, agriculture and pollution prevention, wildlife stewardship, and land use. WIN helps the Cook Family Foundation participate in projects beyond our immediate expertise, and WIN helps bring resources to projects in the Shiawassee Watershed. WIN helps us connect with the larger Great Lakes system of which we are all a part.

For more information, visit WIN's website at www.saginawbaywin.org



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