



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*
Yvette Collard, *Business Manager*

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Laurie Caszatt Cook, *Vice President*
Thomas Cook, *Secretary & Treasurer*
Jacqueline Cook, *Trustee*
Paul Cook, *Trustee*
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shiawasseehistory.com

Owosso Community Players

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History of a Theater 2013



Reconstruction of the roof, exterior, and the original, historic façade began in April 2010. Reconstruction of interior features with improved technology will follow and, by 2014, OCP expects to celebrate with its partners and supporters the rebirth of a historic treasure and the impact that live performing arts opportunities will have in the community for generations to come.

2010



2007



In February 2007, a devastating fire swept through the Lebowsky Center, destroying most of the original Capitol Theater.

1990-2006

In 1990, the Capitol became the home of the Owosso Community Players and was renamed, in honor of its builder, the Lebowsky Center.

For many years Capitol Theater served as a popular movie house.

1930s-1985



1926



Built in 1926 by Joseph H. Lebowsky, the Capitol Theater featured performers from the famous B.F. Keith Vaudeville Circuit.

Preparing for a Bigger Future

Six years ago, downtown Owosso lost its historic theater in a fire, and the community and a local nonprofit found themselves on an uncertain climb to recovery. Now, after some key guidance from public and private partners, a relentless push forward by volunteers, and the helping contributions of many, construction has begun on a new Shiawassee Performing Arts Center. And, the Owosso Community Players have emerged a stronger organization with a bright future.

The Cook Family Foundation is proud to have been one of the supporters of this effort. A \$75,000 contribution was made to help complete a financing package of various public and private grants, one of the last uses of state tax credits, local loans, federal financing, and—perhaps most impressively—lots of small local donations. In a troubled economy, 185 theater seats have been “purchased” at \$1,000 each by supporters of the arts in the community.

Continued on Page 2



"The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program has helped the Owosso Community Players grow in the past few years and move us up several rungs on the ladder to future success."

— Linda Keenan, Executive Director,
Owosso Community Players

NCBP Partners with Nonprofit Network

The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program (NCBP) of the Cook Family Foundation has a new partner: the Nonprofit Network. Since 2006, the NCBP has provided technical and financial assistance to community organizations to help them grow in their mission. This support has aided boards to exercise their governance roles better, staff to have access to professional advice, technology upgrades to improve information systems, and program or facility expansions. NCBP has evolved with the needs and growth of the nonprofit community in Shiawassee County.

Now, a formal relationship with the Nonprofit Network gives local groups access to top quality assistance, through both in-person consulting and online resources. Local Executive Directors are now gathering on a regular basis to share ideas on nonprofit management, and a series of workshops are about to begin to help boards be more effective in fundraising and other engagements.

For more information, contact Tom Cook at 989-725-1621 or tom@cookfamilyfoundation.org.

You can learn more about the Nonprofit Network at nonprofitnetwork.org

nonprofitnetwork
Strengthening Nonprofit
Governance & Management

Continued from Page 1

The Owosso Community Players (OCP), the long-time owner of the theater, has also been a participant for several years in the Cook Family Foundation's Nonprofit Capacity Building Program. This program has provided professional fundraising advice, the development of a new strategic plan, technology upgrades, and other assistance to help OCP prepare for a bigger future. When the new 550-seat theater is opened in 2014, OCP will not only have a state-of-the-art space for its own productions, it will also become a focal point for performing arts for the entire region. The rebuilt theater will be able to host a wide variety of events and help downtown Owosso further evolve as a Main Street community.

A Proud History

The former Capitol Theater was built in 1926 as a vaudeville venue by local businessman Joseph Lebowsky, and for many years afterwards it served as a popular movie house. OCP acquired the building in 1990 and worked diligently for many years to restore the theater to its original role as a place for stage performances. After the 2007 fire, neighboring Chemical Bank donated space to serve as a temporary home. The Cook Family Foundation provided funding in 2010 to help create a small Studio Theater, which will be incorporated into the new Shiawassee Performing Arts Center.

A Great Future

The rebuilt Lebowsky Theater will be historic on the exterior, but a modern performance space in the interior. The structure, being developed by award-winning Bazzani Associates, will be an efficient LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building that will help reduce operating costs. The prominent location of the theater on an entry way, and the expansion of entertainment options, will give a big boost to downtown Owosso's development.

As construction proceeds, OCP is now beginning to plan for its expanded future. With a business plan in hand (funded through the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program), the board is looking at institutional options for meeting several goals and opportunities: managing the theater as a regional entertainment venue, supporting artistic expression by local residents, and serving as a community resource, all the while being financially sustainable in its operations. The first challenge is one last fundraising push to ensure the Shiawassee Performing Arts Center can open without any debt.

For more information, and to learn how to help with the Rebuild! Campaign go to www.ocprebuild.com





The
**Cook Family
Foundation**

2012 Grants

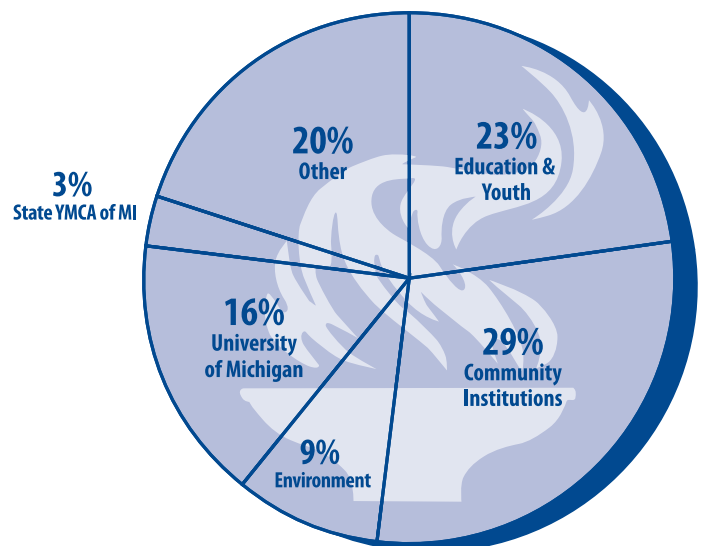
Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, the Cook Family Foundation strives to strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth. Our goal is to help initiate change and promote sustainability within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial 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 2012.

Community Institutions	\$209,737	State YMCA of Michigan	\$25,000
Owosso Community Players	\$77,500	Camp Hayo-Went-Ha (Bonbright Lodge)	\$25,000
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$33,670		
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$25,000	University of Michigan	\$82,369
The Arc Shiawassee	\$20,240	Scholarships	\$65,750
Durand Union Station, Inc.	\$17,297	Scholarship Support	\$16,619
Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail	\$12,775		
Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee	\$10,000	Additional Financials	\$126,356
Girls on the Run Mid Michigan	\$5,555	Administration & Associated Costs	\$85,323
Child Abuse Prevention Council	\$5,000	Office Expenses and Dues	\$30,984
Other Community Grants	\$2,700	Professional Services	\$5,101
		Other Grants	\$2,500
		Communications	\$2,448
Education and Youth	\$149,195	Total Disbursements	\$612,657
Owosso Public Schools IB Program	\$98,036		
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District			
Shiawassee Scholars	\$47,575		
Other Education and Youth	\$3,584		
Environment	\$20,000		
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$20,000		

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 \$2.3 million in six primary areas.

Strong SEDP Brings Growth to Shiawassee County

Ten years ago, the Cook Family Foundation joined with local governments, employers and business advocates with a goal to create a strong public-private organization that would improve the economic health of our community.

The dream has come true, and the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership (SEDP) has grown into an effective regional agent that assists existing companies to grow, new industries to find locations, and many players to find the partners necessary to undertake new development.

**SHIAWASSEE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP**



The Cook Family Foundation has been the largest private financial supporter of SEDP so far, but now that role has diminished as the organization has gained the reputation and track record to broaden its financial base.



SEDP staff and board, local officials, and business partners and representatives of RWI Engineering take part in a 2011 groundbreaking; last month the company announced a further expansion.

In 2012, the Foundation provided a challenge grant to SEDP that helped it expand from 90 to more than 140 investors, including not only private companies, but also 19 units of local government and six school districts in Shiawassee County. The future of Shiawassee County will be brighter with a strong SEDP.

Strong SEDP Brings Growth to Shiawassee County

2012 Grant Report

NCBP Partners with Nonprofit Network

Preparing for a Bigger Future

Inside:

Owosso, MI 48867

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