



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2016

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, Associate Director

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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(l to r): Helen Howard, Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee; Tonya Avery, SafeCenter; Lynn Grubb, the Arc Shiawassee; Lauri Elbing, Friends of the Shiawassee River; Tom Cook, Cook Family Foundation; Kathy Brooks, Owosso Community Players; Piper Brewer, Shiawassee Arts Center; Mary Warner-Stone, Durand Union Station Incorporated; and Marlene Webster, Shiawassee Hope

Partners in Growing Strong Communities

When our nonprofit groups are strong, our communities are healthier. Nonprofits care for those most in need in Shiawassee County, promote our natural and cultural resources, and help us all be engaged citizens. The Cook Family Foundation operates the NonProfit Capacity Building program to help community organizations – their staffs, their boards, and their volunteers – be their best.

Professionals provide training and technical assistance to over 20 Shiawassee-based organizations (see list on page 2). Last year, eight of those organizations took great advantage of these opportunities and were recognized as Partners. To achieve this status, over half of the board members of an organization attended one or more workshops on nonprofit governance, executive directors participated in bi-monthly peer learning sessions, and board members, staff and volunteers took part in coaching sessions. Several of the organizations have also updated their strategic plans, made technology investments, or otherwise added capacity.

“These nonprofits have demonstrated a commitment to improve their governance, their programs, and their capacity” said Foundation Executive Director Tom Cook. “We make services available to all Shiawassee-based nonprofits that have paid staff” said Tom Cook, “and we are confident that several more will achieve Partner status in 2016.”

To learn more, visit www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/capacity-building/

Our Current Nonprofit Capacity Building Members:

Twenty-one nonprofit organizations in Shiawassee County have joined the NonProfit Capacity Building Program and become members of the Nonprofit Network. The Cook Family Foundation is proud to work with these organizations who have made a commitment to capacity building.

The Arc Shiawassee County

Child Abuse Prevention Council of
Shiawassee County (CAP Council)

DeVries Nature Conservancy

Durand Union Station, Inc. (DUSI)

Friends of the Shiawassee River (FOSR)

Girls on the Run Mid Michigan (GOTR)

The Owosso Historical Commission (OHC)

Owosso Community Players (OCP)

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee (Respite)

Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC)

SafeCenter (formerly RAVE)

Shiawassee Community Foundation (SCF)

Shiawassee Conservation District

Shiawassee County Convention and
Visitor Bureau (CVB)

Shiawassee County Humane Society (SCHS)

Shiawassee Council on Aging (SCOA)

Shiawassee Family YMCA (YMCA)

Shiawassee Hope

Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce
(SRCC)

Shiawassee United Way (SUW)

Steam Railroading Institute (SRI)



"The NonProfit Capacity Building program was instrumental in helping us to adopt a plan and make a seamless leadership transition."

— Tonya Avery,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: Thanks to several grants and expanded fundraising, staff has grown to 17 professionals who provide crisis counseling, shelter and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Capacity Building: A new strategic plan has helped board, staff, and a new executive director align their work.



"Our organization has undergone many important structural changes over the past 18 months. With support from NPCB, we have been able to breathe new life into our organization."

— Lynn Grubb,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: Through new programs, The Arc now serves as an advocate for students, assists social security beneficiaries maintain their independence, and helps many others with housing, recreation, and skill development.

Capacity Building: With a changing board, The Arc has improved board governance, put in place new policies and bylaws, and better identified fundraising opportunities.



"The targeted guidance provided by the Nonprofit Network staff has been instrumental in overcoming several challenges and planning for our long-term success."

— Lorraine Austin,
Board Member

Accomplishment: The past year has been pivotal for the Friends with new and more staffing, geographic expansion, and their best year of fundraising.

Capacity Building: The goals of a new strategic plan have been translated into action plans to direct the work of the board and volunteers as they care, share, and enjoy the Shiawassee River.



Durand Union Station, Incorporated (DUSI)

"The NonProfit Capacity Building program has aided us with long-term organizational planning and vision. Without this guidance and support, we would not have the resources to expand and fully realize our mission."

— Mary Warner-Stone,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: Durand Union Station Inc (DUSI) has made a successful transition from an all-volunteer effort to one with a long-term executive director and a professional curator to manage the archives of the Michigan Railroad History Museum.

Capacity Building: DUSI and the City of Durand have come to terms on a long-term lease for use of the depot. This gives the organization the security to plan for the best use of the facility.



Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC)

"It was 20 years ago that the Cook Family Foundation first awarded SAC a major grant to help increase our classroom capacity. Our nonprofit organization continues to grow in many ways thanks to the NonProfit Capacity Building Program."

— Piper Brewer,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: The Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC) continues to grow with nearly 1,000 members and 275 participating artists located in a beautiful, handicapped-accessible facility in Curwood Castle Park.

Capacity Building: With an updated strategic plan, SAC is seeking to increase awareness of the Arts Center and market the community's cultural and artistic assets.



Owosso Community Players (OCP)

"The tools made available from the NonProfit Capacity Building Program directly impacts the future of our organization."

—Kathy Brooks,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: After rebuilding its theater, the Owosso Community Players is now rebuilding its organization. The new Shiawassee Performing Arts Center has been a big hit, with high quality productions, sell-out shows, and rave reviews from throughout the region and beyond.

Capacity Building: A new Executive Director is working with the board to put in place best practices, adopt solid policies, and create a foundation for the continued growth and sustainability of this community jewel.



Shiawassee Hope

"I am grateful for the NonProfit Capacity Building Program because it has helped us to lay a strong foundation for our new organization. Creating this work together has transformed our board into a strong, cohesive team."

— Marlene Webster,
Executive Director

Accomplishment: Shiawassee Hope seeks to assist people chart a course from poverty through one-to-one mentoring, working in specific neighborhoods, and building collaborations, like the one that has provided shelter to the homeless this winter (the Walls of Warmth).

Capacity Building: The new board has learned a lot about governance, created a strategic plan, and defined a structure for volunteers and staff.



"We have learned so much from the NonProfit Capacity Building workshops, technical assistance, and coaching."

— Jackie Hurd
Board Member

Accomplishment: Last year, more than 200 volunteers working through Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee provided 10,134 hours of service to adults with persistent health needs and their families.

Capacity Building: The staff and board have successfully promoted their presence and raised their image in the community, while also working tirelessly to add to their fundraising capabilities.



SHIAWASSEE
Nonprofit
Capacity Building
PROGRAM

The Cook Family Foundation

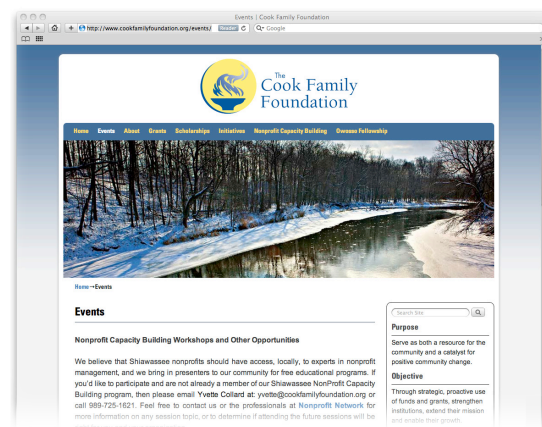
Upcoming Workshops:

We believe that Shiawassee nonprofits should have access, locally, to experts in nonprofit management, and we bring in presenters to our community for free educational programs. Visit our events page at: cookfamilyfoundation.org/events to register or to learn more.

20 Must-Know Tips to Use Social Media to Fundraise Wednesday, June 22, 12:00–3:30PM

To successfully fundraise online, nonprofits must invest in social media strategies and tactics to improve outcomes. Come learn what these “must-know” tips are and brainstorm with your peers how to implement and practice these tips.

For more information on workshops and the NonProfit Capacity Building program, follow us on Twitter @ShiaNPCB



Inside:

Partners in Growing
Strong Communities
NPCB Highlights
2015 Grants
Upcoming Workshops

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