



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2017

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



CONTACT US

P.O. Box 278

Owosso, Michigan 48867

Ph: 989.725.1621

tom@cookfamilyfoundation.org

www.cookfamilyfoundation.org

Cover Photo: Michael D-L Jordan/
David-Lorne Photographic

Graphic Design: Amber L. Fuller

Printing: i60 Media



For more than a decade the Cook Family Foundation has joined with others to promote, protect, and restore the nature closest at hand, the Shiawassee River.

The Shiawassee River: Connecting Us All

The Shiawassee River gives our community its name, its location, and its most important natural feature. The water that flows into, and from, the Shiawassee River connects us to our landscape, Saginaw Bay, and the Great Lakes. Water, the essential component of life, is made visible in the Shiawassee River.

The Cook Family Foundation has a mission to strengthen our community, and we believe we cannot have a healthy community unless we care for the nature upon which we all rely. Thus, for more than a decade the Foundation has joined with others to promote, protect, and restore the nature closest at hand, the Shiawassee River.

Our investments have had three goals:

1. To help farmers and their conservation partners best care for the land that makes up the watershed of the Shiawassee River and Saginaw Bay
2. To support local stewardship of the Shiawassee River by nonprofit groups, local governments, and landowners
3. To work with other funders to better understand and illustrate the connections between the Shiawassee River and the larger world

Inside read about some of our ongoing and recent efforts to achieve these objectives.

Promoting, Protecting, Restoring:

2016 Highlights



Nature Conservancy, Saginaw Bay –

We are helping to research and promote innovative agricultural practices to protect the health of waterways and reduce polluted run-off. We are one of 16 funders in a science-based effort to engage agribusinesses and other conservation partners to improve the effectiveness of federal Farm Bill programs.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) provides funding to help farmers implement conservation practices such as cover crops on their fields, with the goal of impacting water quality. This partnership is also demonstrating how a broad suite of partners such as agribusiness and crop advisors can increase their collective ability to provide support to farmers and get more conservation practices on the ground more efficiently. At the end of the program's first year, a total of 33 farmers have signed up and \$1.8 million in Farm Bill funding has been committed for the adoption of new conservation practices, which means over 18,787 acres of new conservation.



Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) –

We are building a sustainable region through collaborative funding with other foundations, nonprofits, and businesses. Projects include innovative agriculture, recreational enhancements, wildlife stewardship, dam removals, and green economy efforts.



Friends of the Shiawassee River –

We are providing this local group with its first new office and helping with the restoration of the surrounding Corunna dam site. The Friends are a Partner in our NonProfit Capacity Building program.



Green and Blue Network – through the Council of Michigan Foundations, we are part of a learning coalition of families that funds Great Lakes environmental efforts in Michigan. Projects have included river connectivity, invasive species control, climate change and environmental justice.



Memorial Healthcare, King Street Woods –

We supplied technical expertise to help protect and restore this riverbank park. Interns from the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens provided plans, guidance, and skilled labor.



James Miner Trail – We helped bring together local governmental leaders to create a partnership to care for this community recreational resource along the Shiawassee River. Our matching grant has funded initial trail maintenance; more improvements to come.

The Cook Family Foundation invests in community organizations that are committed to positive change, both within Shiawassee County and within the organization itself. We make grants to community institutions that desire to better serve the residents of Shiawassee County through new activities, improved programs, or collaborative initiatives.

Learn more, including how to apply at:
www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/grants/





The
**Cook Family
Foundation**

2016 Grants

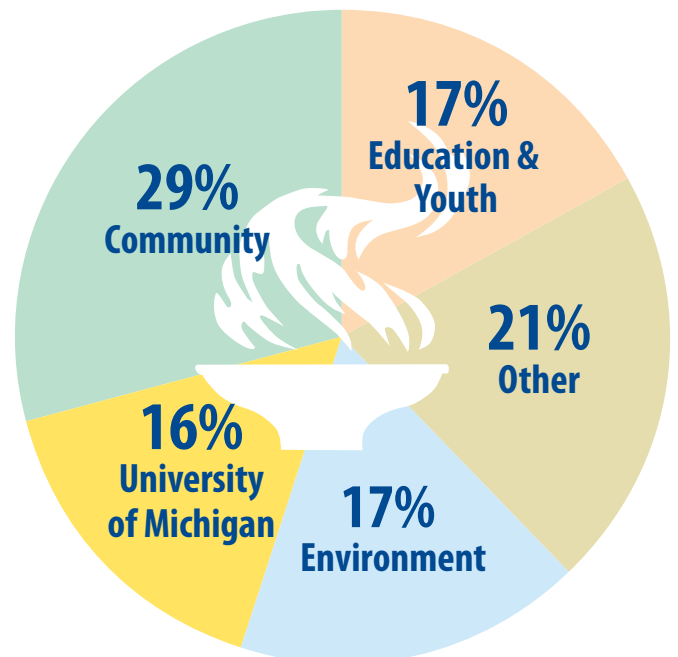
Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, the Cook Family Foundation strives to strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth. Our goal is to help initiate change and promote sustainability within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial 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 2016:

Community Organizations	\$275,015
Nonprofit Partner Operating Support	\$83,130
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$66,047
Memorial Healthcare	\$30,000
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$30,000
Owosso Community Players	\$16,500
Shiawassee Hope	\$14,400
Community Arts & History Grants	\$10,400
Intern Program	\$5,770
Shiawassee United Way	\$5,193
Downtown Owosso Farmers Market	\$4,800
The Arc Shiawassee	\$3,000
Durand Union Station, Inc.	\$3,000
Other Community Development Grants	\$2,775

Education and Youth	\$36,990
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District	
Shiawassee Scholars	\$30,000
Other Education and Youth	\$6,990

Environment	\$55,500
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$40,000
Michigan Energy Options	\$6,000
Miner Trail Matching Grant	\$5,000
Other Environmental Grants	\$4,500

University of Michigan	\$190,484
Scholarships	\$167,000
Scholarship Support	\$23,484
Additional Financials	
Administration & Associated Costs	\$96,606
Office Expenses and Memberships	\$40,784
Taxes	\$13,995
Professional Services & Fees	\$5,986
Communications	\$4,114
Other Grants	\$4,500
Total Disbursements	\$723,974



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$2.7 million dollars in four primary areas.

Are You on a Nonprofit Board?

Then you may be interested in our next NonProfit Capacity Building Program workshop: 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.

Please visit our “Events” page on our website at: www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/events/ to register or to learn more about the program. Here’s a preview of some upcoming NonProfit Capacity Building workshops:

Board 101–Accelerating Board Performance

Tuesday, April 25, 3pm - 6:30pm at Baker College Welcome Center

Leveraging Resources Through Sharing, Partnering and Collaborating

Wednesday, May 31st, 9am - 4pm at Baker College Welcome Center

Becoming Your Best (Executive Directors and their Boards)

Friday, September 22, 9am - 4pm (location TBD)

Follow our NonProfit Capacity Building work on Twitter @ShiaNPCB



SHIAWASSEE
NonProfit
Capacity Building
PROGRAM

The Cook Family Foundation

Congratulations to our 10 NonProfit Capacity Building Partners:

The Arc Shiawassee County
Durand Union Station, Inc.
Child Abuse Prevention Council
Friends of the Shiawassee River
Owosso Community Players
Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee
SafeCenter
Shiawassee Arts Center
Shiawassee County Humane Society
Shiawassee Hope

Read more about our Partners on our website:

www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/capacity-building/

Inside:

The Shiawassee River:
Connecting Us All
2016 Highlights
2016 Grants
Upcoming Workshops

The Cook Family
Foundation
P.O. Box 278
Owosso, MI 48867



Presorted STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 13
Owosso, MI