



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2019

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

Thomas Cook, Executive Director
Yvette Collard, Associate Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thomas Cook, Secretary & Treasurer
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In March of 2018, the Cook Family Foundation made a \$1.1 million commitment to the Owosso Public Schools for the completion of an enhanced performing arts center in the Owosso High School/Middle School building.

Enhancing Excellence in the Owosso Schools

How best to fairly and adequately fund our schools is a question once again facing the State of Michigan and its local communities. The passage of Proposal A in 1994 increased the role of the state in funding education with the intent to equalize funding for the operations of schools; this benefited many rural communities. However, the construction of school facilities “remains a local responsibility, funded entirely by local property taxes. Consequently, inequalities in local districts’ property wealth create dramatic disparities in facility quality across Michigan districts,” according to a recent study from Michigan State University.*

The Owosso Public Schools have been hampered by this reality and for over 20 years have struggled to replace their middle school, which occupies the former high school built in 1929. Four millage proposals were put forward and defeated in that time. Finally, in 2017, a \$45 million bond – the smallest of recent proposals – was passed by the Owosso voters to remodel the current 1962 high school to include a middle school. Construction starts this spring.

*The MSU report is “Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads” January 2019

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Performing Arts Center *Continued from Page 1*

In order to control costs, Owosso was forced to scale back a performance space for its accomplished band and vocal programs. The \$1.1 million grant from the Foundation will be used to enhance the voter-approved “multi-purpose performance space” into a full-fledged performing arts center with the design, acoustics, and technical capacity to support band, vocal and theatrical performances.

“We believe the arts are a central component of a quality education, and this facility will enhance the excellence in the performing arts in Owosso,” said Tom Cook, Executive Director of the Foundation.

In addition to providing a showcase for the already excellent music programs of the Owosso Public Schools, the new performing arts center will support additional drama curriculum and programs. Furthermore, the technical components of the new auditorium will allow for the creation of a career pathway in lighting, audio-visual, and other stagecraft occupations.

The \$1.1 million grant, which will be made in two installments in 2019 and 2020, is extraordinary funding above and beyond the Foundation’s usual grant-making. For these reasons, it is not reflected in the financial report found on the opposite page.



Independent Photo/Karen Mead-Elford

OHS Drama Club express their excitement and gratitude to the Cook Family Foundation for the donation of \$1.1 million toward the creation of a fully equipped auditorium, allowing students from various curriculums to explore theater.

Making a Difference in Our Community

We are stronger when we come together to improve our community. For the second #GivingTuesday in a row, nonprofits in Shiawassee County collaborated to successfully invite community giving and volunteer efforts.

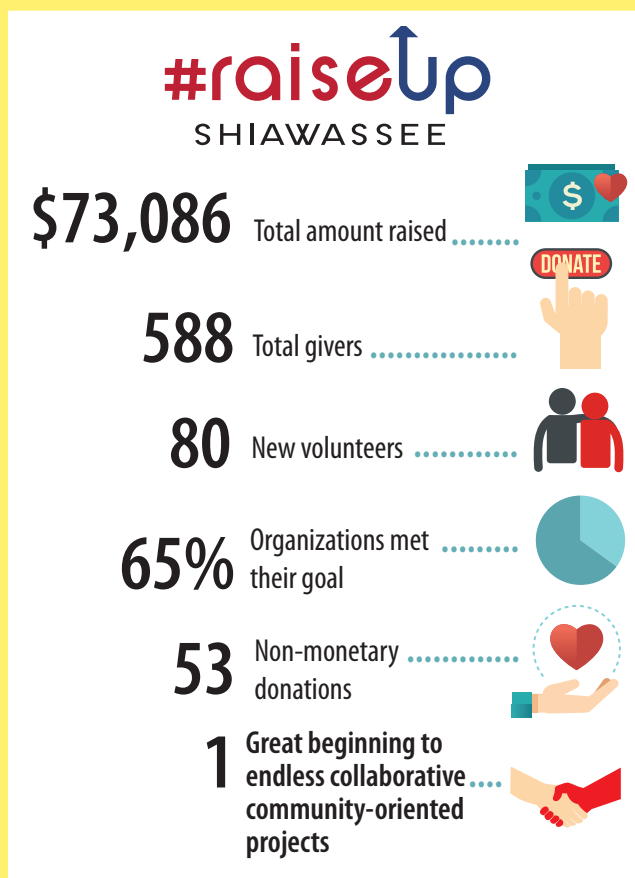
Working under the hashtag #raiseUPshiawassee, 17 nonprofits raised funds and awareness and demonstrated the power of collaboration. The Cook Family Foundation provided matching grants and organizational support.



Schutt Photography

Time is needed as much as treasure, and the Find Your Nonprofit Soulmate Event provided a fun opportunity to match potential volunteers with the nonprofits who can put them to work. Folks were able to meet with someone in person, learn more about local

organizations, and find specific volunteer openings. They could even sign up for or look at these opportunities online and sign up to volunteer at the United Way’s top-notch database Shiawassee Serves.



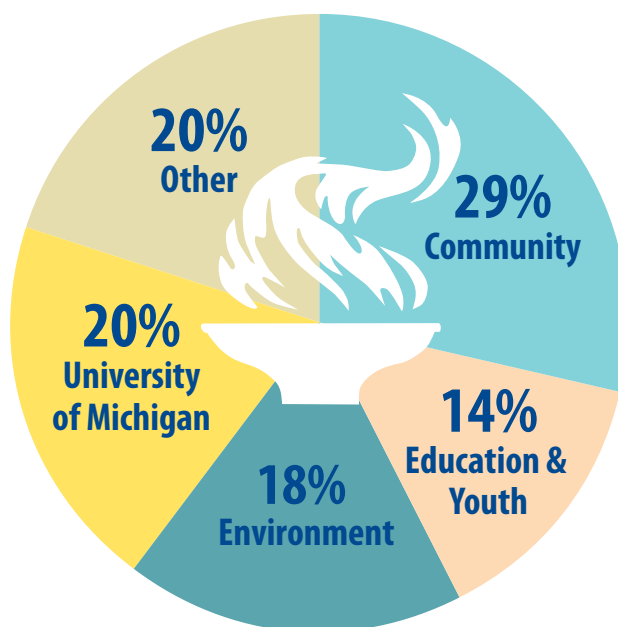


The
**Cook Family
Foundation**

2018 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 2018:

Community Organizations	\$266,234	University of Michigan	\$191,028
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$72,047	Scholarships	\$151,621
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$68,700	Scholarship Support	\$14,407
Shiawassee Arts Center	\$36,704	UM Brain Tumor Research	\$25,000
Memorial Healthcare	\$30,000		
#raiseUPshiawassee (GivingTuesday)	\$22,961		
SafeCenter	\$17,369		
Shiawassee Hope	\$12,172		
Other Community Development Grants	\$6,181		
		Additional Financials	
		Administration & Associated Costs	\$109,068
		Office Expenses and Memberships	\$33,568
		Professional Services & Fees	\$8,839
		Communications	\$4,297
		Other Grants	\$4,000
Education and Youth	\$130,500	Total Disbursements	\$792,934
Hayo-Went-Ha Camps	\$50,000		
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District			
Shiawassee Scholars	\$60,000		
Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$10,000		
Owosso Public Schools - AdviseMI			
Counseling Support	\$5,500		
Other Education and Youth	\$5,000		
Environment	\$45,500		
The Nature Conservancy	\$25,000		
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$20,000		
Other Environmental Support	\$500		



Grant Materials

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

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

In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$2.9 million dollars in four primary areas.

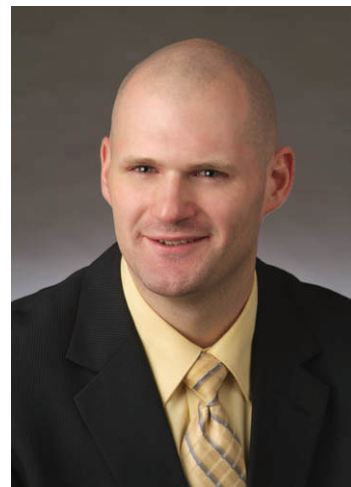
Building a Strong Community with the YMCA

The Cook Family Foundation believes a healthy community needs strong institutions, and one of the oldest, most central –and most promising –organizations is the Shiawassee Family YMCA.

To help the YMCA grow and meet its mission, the Foundation has made a grant for 2019 to support its programming for youth, family, and adults.

Kyle Thornton, an Ovid-Elsie native and resident, has taken on the role of Senior Program Director at the Shiawassee Family YMCA. He has an educational and employment background in Sports Management and also worked with students for 10 years at Baker College. He will be working with Program Champions from the YMCA board and other volunteers.

The Shiawassee Family YMCA has an opportunity to build its membership base through new programs. In addition, the YMCA can enhance its role as a community hub through partnerships with other organizations to deliver programs to constituents who desire, or need, the expertise of the YMCA.



Courtesy photo

Kyle Thornton, Senior Program Director of the Shiawassee Family YMCA



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Inside:

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