



# The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2020

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## STAFF

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Yvette Collard, Associate Director



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*Staff members working together, combined community fundraising, and coordinated programs to provide nonprofits with support are all good examples of effective collaboration.*

## Building Strong Communities through Collaboration

We all benefit from the strong nonprofits in our community. Several factors account for the success of our local nonprofits: passionate board members and volunteers, generous donors, active partners, long histories, strong relationships, and expert staff. We at the Cook Family Foundation are proud to do our part.

Through the Foundation's Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, we see a strong staff as one of the keys to nonprofit success. Those people who serve as staff to a nonprofit have made a career choice motivated by mission. Often those working for nonprofits are paid less than those working for a government agency or a private business, and their benefits are not as broad.

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## Building Strong Communities

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In recent years, the Cook Family Foundation has made grants to several nonprofits to add staff, but getting this right can be tricky. It's important that new staffing be part of a comprehensive strategy to grow an organization, and revenues need to increase to support the expanded payroll. But the right staff person can jump-start a new program, create greater exposure for the work of a nonprofit, facilitate a beneficial partnership, and/or result in new donations or other revenues.

You too can support the staff of our local nonprofits, first by acknowledging and thanking them for their contributions to the community. If you serve on the board of a nonprofit, you already know how your positive engagement with your executive director benefits the mission of your organization. If you are a donor, your financial support of staff makes possible the good work of your favorite nonprofit. Grants are often available for programs, facilities, or supplies, but it's hard to get those grants without a talented (i.e. well paid) executive director. Administrative staff helps everyone in a nonprofit be more successful. Your unrestricted contributions to a local nonprofit make possible the core staff that carry out the missions of our most committed community organizations.

## Focus On Financial Stewardship

Money for a community organization is hard to come by, so it's important that a nonprofit manage its financial resources well.



Unfortunately, several local groups have been victimized by embezzlement in recent years when their trust in key personnel was confounded. As part of the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, the Cook Family Foundation has offered training and expert advice to promote financial best practices.

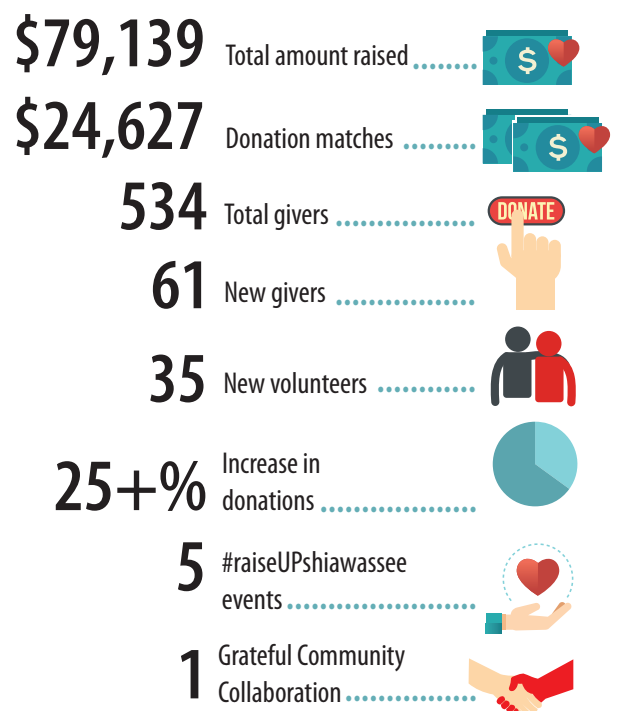
Last fall, a record number of people attended a workshop, "Embezzlement Awareness and Prevention." Afterwards, most of our partner organizations met with professionals from the Nonprofit Network to review and revise their policies and practices. Now, the Foundation asks in its grant application that a nonprofit "describe the tools, policies and practices your organization utilizes to ensure that financial resources are safeguarded."

## Making a Difference in Our Community



Nineteen local community organizations came together in 2019 to raise funds, awareness and volunteers, some for the third #GivingTuesday in a row. The collaboration, working under the hashtag, #raiseUPshiaswassee, was led this year by three organizations: Kimberly Renwick, Executive Director of the Shiawassee Community Foundation; Emily Marrah, Relationship Specialist of the United Way of Genesee – Serving Shiawassee County; and Yvette Collard, Associate Director of the Cook Family Foundation.

**#raiseUP**  
SHIAWASSEE  
#GIVINGTUESDAY





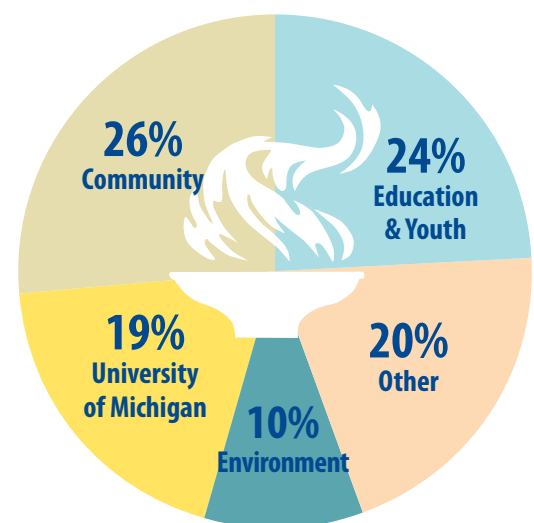


The  
**Cook Family  
Foundation**

# 2019 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 2019.

<b>Community Organizations</b>	<b>\$197,497</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>\$26,330</b>
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$86,790	Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$22,000
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$45,000	The Nature Conservancy	\$4,000
Memorial Healthcare	\$30,000	Other Environmental Support	\$330
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts	\$17,000		
#raiseUPshiawassee (GivingTuesday)	\$6,240	<b>University of Michigan</b>	<b>\$166,671</b>
Shiawassee County Health Department	\$5,000	Scholarships	\$130,750
Emergency Shelter Needs in Shiawassee County	\$3,000	Shiawassee Area Interns	\$22,398
Capital Area Community Services	\$1,300	Scholarship Support	\$13,523
Shiawassee Arts Center	\$1,000		
Downtown Owosso Farmers Market	\$840	<b>Additional Financials</b>	
Girls on the Run Mid-Michigan	\$225	Administration & Associated Costs	\$190,640
Other Community Development Grants	\$1,100	Office Expenses and Memberships	\$38,828
		Communications	\$5,402
		Professional Services & Fees	\$5,135
<b>Education and Youth</b>	<b>\$623,750</b>	<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,257,253</b>
Owosso Public Schools -			
Auditorium Enhancements	\$500,000		
Hayo-Went-Ha Camps	\$50,000		
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District			
Shiawassee Scholars	\$60,000		
Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$10,000		
Cub Scouts - Program Cost Assistance	\$2,500		
Area Robotics	\$750		
Youth Advisory Council	\$500		



## Grant Materials

Go to [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org](http://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 \$3.3 million dollars in four primary areas.*

# Better Together

We can accomplish more when we work together. The Cook Family Foundation is committed to supporting collaboration in Shiawassee County. While our priority is to support our nonprofit partners, successful cooperation often requires the involvement of public agencies and/or the private sector. We are willing to support collaboration in at least three different ways:

1. **Information Sharing** between organizations and agencies can identify opportunities for collaboration. When organizations can communicate clearly about their aspirations and activities, then others can align with and support endeavors which are mutually beneficial. Such cooperative efforts can be part of an ongoing process or a one time meeting, and can occur either in person or virtually.
2. **Partnerships** and other joint efforts allow organizations to provide programs in the most efficient manner and target services where they can achieve the biggest impact at the least cost. The best partnerships draw on the strength of one organization to complement those of another.
3. **Collective Impact** and other structured forms of collaboration allow several organizations to come together to address common community problems which are often beyond the scope of any one organization and agency to solve. To be successful, collaboration requires intentional planning, a clear purpose with agreement on quantified goals, ongoing communication, and a formal structure to support coordination.



To learn more about collaboration, find links to research on Collective Impact, and download an application for grant funds to support cooperative activities, visit the Foundation's website: [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.cookfamilyfoundation.org).

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through Collaboration  
Financial Stewardship  
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