



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2022

PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

OUR VALUES

Have Integrity
Be Inclusive
Make True Impact

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Cook, President
Thomas Cook, Secretary & Treasurer
Jacqueline Cook, Trustee
Paul Cook, Trustee
Bailey Leppert, Trustee
Anna Owens, Trustee
Susie Phillips, Trustee
Matt Van Epps, Trustee

STAFF

Thomas Cook, Executive Director
Yvette Collard, Associate Director
Kerry Dutcher, Office Manager



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A Carefully Tended Legacy of Growth

The benefactors of the Cook Family Foundation were gardeners. Donald and Florence-etta Cook had extensive gardens at their home on West King Street in Owosso (now the site of expansions by Memorial Healthcare). They cultivated the soil, planted a beautiful diversity of flowers, fertilized new growth, pruned back rose bushes and fruit trees, and tended to a garden that provided for relaxation and refreshment.

As the Cook Family Foundation plans for the future, we remember this legacy of gardening and aspire to make wise stewardship decisions that will lead to further growth. We seek to realize our vision for Shiawassee County where "all people have the opportunity and support to build joyful, meaningful lives."

In the last two years, the Foundation has been planning for the future and taking strategic action to build a stronger organization. We have revisited and reaffirmed our mission and vision, adopted three value statements to guide our decision-making (see page 2), and added staff and capacity to support our grantees. Bailey Leppert became the first member of the fourth generation of the Cook Family to join the board. To provide more community input to our work, two non-family members have joined our board.

Importantly, we have made program changes as well. For over 40 years we have been helping local students attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; we have expanded our scholarship efforts to include scholarships to the UM campuses in Flint and Dearborn. We are also adding more services to our Non-Profit Capacity Building program to enable local organizations to have the most positive impact in the community.

Our responsibility as stewards requires us to carefully tend the legacy with which we have been entrusted so as to benefit future generations. We look forward to a flowering of new growth.



Bailey Leppert is Vice President of Wolverine Sign Works and the daughter of Paul and Laurie Cook.



Susie Shanahan Phillips is a retired educator who has served on the advisory board of the Shiawassee Scholars program.



Matt Van Epps is a local attorney with an extensive record of service to nonprofit and community organizations.

OUR VISION:

We envision a diverse, healthy, and thriving community where all children have access to the best education, the natural environment is protected and enjoyed, and all people have the opportunity and support to build joyful, meaningful lives.

OUR MISSION:

The Cook Family Foundation, a multigenerational family foundation based in Owosso, Michigan, collaborates with organizations to support education, the environment, the arts, and community stewardship. We work to be a catalyst for positive community change to promote a more equitable society.

OUR VALUES:

Be Inclusive: We are welcoming to all. We build relationships with people through sharing our collective and unique experiences so that we can collaborate respectfully and use our resources to address disparities across our community.

Have Integrity: We keep our promises. We value partnerships and collaboration – both require being honest, trustworthy, and reliable. We engage in ethical and transparent business practices and expect that of others we work with.

Make True Impact: Through big and small investments of money, time, talent, and energy, we work with willing partners to improve our community and our collective future. We use our resources effectively and efficiently, measuring results and outcomes.



#Raise UP Shiawassee: Making a Difference in Our Community

2021 “Give Where You Live”
GivingTuesday Campaign
EXCEEDS Both Its Goals **AGAIN!**

\$122,927
21,041

TOTAL RAISED (Over 20% more than the campaign goal!)
POUNDS OF FOOD given away at
Shiawassee Family YMCA's Mobile Food Distribution on GivingTuesday
Shiawassee Hunger Network's Stuff the Bus Event

\$750

CLOTHING DONATIONS to *The Laingsburg Clothesline*

660

HOURS of Volunteer SERVICE (OVER SIX TIMES the campaign goal!)

550

POUNDS OF PET FOOD donations to the *Shiawassee Humane Society*

440

SERVICE IN A BOX PROJECTS from *United Way of Genesee County (serving Shiawassee)*

194

NEW VOLUNTEERS gained this year

5

YEARS of #Raise UP Shiawassee COLLABORATION

2

GOALS CRUSHED!

-Raised **OVER \$100,000** AND
-Provided **OVER 100 Volunteer Hours**

1

NEW AND VERY SUCCESSFUL VENTURE - Comedy Project Improv Night at the *Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts*, which gained \$9,710 for all 25 nonprofits raising funds! (Thank you, *Cargill Corporation* sponsoring HERO!)





The Cook Family Foundation

2021 Grants

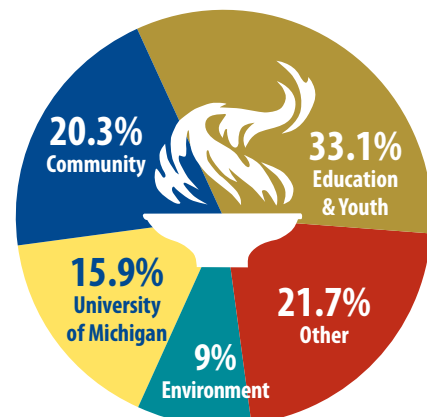
Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, the Cook Family Foundation strives to strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth. Our goal is to help initiate change and promote sustainability within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial 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 2021.

Community Organizations	\$189,381	Education and Youth	\$128,891
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$59,539	Shiawassee Regional Education Services District	
Remedy Project	\$31,625	Shiawassee Scholars Program	\$60,000
SafeCenter	\$25,000	Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$10,000
Friends of the Shiawassee River	\$17,265	Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$48,643
Greater Laingsburg Recycling Center	\$17,000	Owosso Public Schools	
Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts	\$14,950	AdviseMI - Career Advisement	\$10,000
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$10,000	FAFSA Workshop (Perry)	\$248
Raise UP Shiawassee Collaboration (GivingTuesday)	\$5,767		
Shiawassee Family YMCA. (SOARS Program)	\$4,485		
Hospice House	\$2,000		
Other Community Development Grants	\$1,750		
Environment	\$170,000	University of Michigan	\$127,455
YMCA Camp Shiawassee (Land Preservation)	\$100,000	Scholarships	\$93,104
The Nature Conservancy	\$50,000	Scholarship Support	\$9,186
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$20,000	Shiawassee Area Interns	\$25,165
		Additional Financials	
		Administration & Associated Costs	\$247,631
		Office Expenses and Memberships	\$44,540
		Professional Services & Fees	\$21,945
		Communications	\$7,518
		Other Grants	\$3,000
		Total Disbursements	\$940,361

Learn more...

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

- Scholarship Information
- Grant Criteria
- Grant Application
- Non-Profit Capacity Building Program
- Collaboration
- Fellows Internship Program



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$4 million dollars in four primary areas.

Protecting and Preserving for the Future

Stewardship of one part of the Shiawassee River watershed will be made permanent, thanks to a grant to the Shiawassee Family YMCA, one of the Foundation's long-standing community partners.

Camp Shiawassee contains an important 2.5-mile stretch of the Shiawassee River. The surrounding floodplain forest and wetlands provide a home for several rare animal and plant species, including the snow trillium (pictured here).

Thanks to a partnership with Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, a portion of the 176-acre Camp Shiawassee will be protected with a conservation easement that will direct any future development of camp-related uses away from delicate natural areas. A \$100,000 donation from the Cook Family Foundation will allow the Y to build new bathrooms and make other upgrades to ensure the long-term use of the property as a Camp for youth, families, and other nature fans.



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Camp Shiawassee was established in 1946, during a time when the Foundation's benefactor, Don Cook, was active in the Shiawassee YMCA. In 1981, The Nature Conservancy identified the rare snow trillium on the property and initiated some early land stewardship practices. In 2020, the National Park Service recognized 88 miles of the Shiawassee as National Water Trail. Throughout all this time, Camp Shiawassee has provided outdoor recreation for thousands of youth on this beautiful location.

Inside:

A Carefully Tended Legacy of Growth
#Raise UP Shiawassee Exceeds Goals AGAIN
2021 Grants
Protecting and Preserving for the Future

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