



# The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2023

## 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

Paul Cook, Board President  
Bailey Leppert, Secretary/Treasurer  
Anna Owens, Trustee  
Susie Phillips, Trustee  
Matt Van Epps, Trustee

## STAFF

Tom Cook, Executive Director  
Yvette Collard, Director of Scholarships  
Kerry Dutcher, Associate Director



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*Left to right - Susie Phillips, Bailey Leppert, Paul Cook, Yvette Collard, Kerry Dutcher, Tom Cook, Matt Van Epps, Anna Owens*

## A Letter to the Community

Friends -

We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Bruce Cook (see back page). Thank you for the condolences and memories you have shared with us these past months. We face a difficult challenge to carry on the philanthropic legacy of our father, grandfather, colleague, and friend. With your continued support, we will expand the work of the Cook Family Foundation in 2024.

We are taking time this year to plan for the future, and at this point do not know where this work will lead us. We do know we will carry on our scholarship work with the University of Michigan and we remain committed to serve the residents and communities of the Shiawassee region.

Integrity is one of our values, and we will evaluate and increase our philanthropy with openness and transparency. We seek the input and ideas of those we work with. We know we cannot achieve any of our goals without partners, and we know we have our greatest impact when we collaborate in our grant-making.

We thank you for your patience, engagement, and support -

*The Board and Staff of the Cook Family Foundation*



## A Plan to Do More in '24

The Cook Family Foundation is a multi-generational philanthropy, established in 1978 by Donald and Florence-etta Cook. In the last several years, the Foundation has been planning for a bigger future.

Bruce Cook, in addition to taking care of his wife of 69 years, Jackie Cook, made estate plans to continue the work started by his parents. Thanks to his foresight and generosity, the Foundation's endowment will roughly double in size in 2024.

With Bruce Cook's leadership, the Foundation has worked the last several years to prepare the legal and financial basis for an expansion in its grantmaking. The Foundation has added new staff and two community representatives to its board. The planning begun in the last few years sped up with the passing of Bruce Cook, but it is not complete.

In order to give maximum attention to the future, the Foundation is making no new grants in 2023. The Foundation's scholarship work with the three campuses of the University of Michigan, its Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, and other previous commitments will continue. Going forward, the Foundation will build on its history of grant-making in education, environment, the arts, public health, and community development. New areas of grant-making will be explored as well.

As we make plans for the future, we will be guided by our three values of **Integrity, Inclusiveness, and Impact**. We hope to build on our existing relationships by being open and trusting. We want to be inclusive, and seek partners who share our vision to create a diverse, healthy, and thriving community. Finally, we want our investments to have an impact, and we believe that collaboration in the use of our capacities and resources results in positive community change.

Follow our webpage [cookfamilyfoundation.org](https://cookfamilyfoundation.org) for updates on our work as we plan to do more in '24.

**#raiseUP**  
SHIAWASSEE  
#GIVINGTUESDAY

**#Raise UP Shiawassee:  
Making a Difference  
in Our Community**

**2022 "Give Where You Live"  
GivingTuesday Campaign  
EXCEEDS Its  
Financial Goal AGAIN!**

- \$133,082** TOTAL RAISED (Over 20% more than the campaign goal!)
- 9,000** POUNDS OF FOOD given away at to 250 Families at *Shiawassee Family YMCA's* Mobile Food Distribution on GivingTuesday
- 900** HOURS of Volunteer SERVICE (OVER NINE TIMES last year's total!)
- 100** *United Way of Genesee County (Serving Shiawassee)* Created 100 COMFORT CARE KITS & 100 LAUNDRY SOAPS given to local organizations: *SafeCenter, Voices for Children, Owosso Public Safety Department, Catholic Charities, and The Laingsburg Clothesline*
- 82** DONORS this year
- 64** NEW VOLUNTEERS gained this year
- 26** PARTICIPATING NONPROFITS
- 11** AWESOME SPONSORS/GRANTORS & IN-KIND SERVICE PROVIDERS: *Argus Press, Cook Family Foundation Grant, Fuller Good Ideas, Shiawassee Community Foundation Grant, Shiawassee County Health Department Mini VOICE Grant, Shiawassee County Regional Chamber of Commerce Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, Stifel, United Way of Genesee County, Unodeuce Multimedia, Vista*
- 6** YEARS of **#raiseUPshiawassee** COLLABORATION
- 1** GOAL CRUSHED!  
— Raised OVER **\$100,000**



The  
**Cook Family  
Foundation**

# 2022 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 2022.

Community Organizations	\$211,346
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$79,959
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$47,000
Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$32,369
Friends of the Shiawassee River	\$19,841
SafeCenter	\$12,300
Girls on the Run	\$5,607
Shiawassee County Health Department	\$5,000
Raise UP Shiawassee Collaboration (GivingTuesday)	\$3,622
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$2,650
Nonprofit Technology Program	\$1,248
Downtown Owosso Farmers' Market	\$1,000
Other Community Development Grants	\$750

University of Michigan	\$192,625
Scholarships - Ann Arbor	\$110,204
Scholarships - Flint	\$33,000
Scholarship Support	\$20,939
Shiawassee Area Interns	\$28,482

Education and Youth	\$102,371
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District	
Shiawassee Scholars Program	\$70,000
Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$10,000
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$19,000
Owosso Public Schools - Civic Engagement	\$1,919
Curwood Festival - SAGA Contest	\$1,000
Corunna Odyssey of the Mind	\$250
FAFSA Workshop (Perry)	\$202

Environment	\$70,000
The Nature Conservancy	\$50,000
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	\$20,000

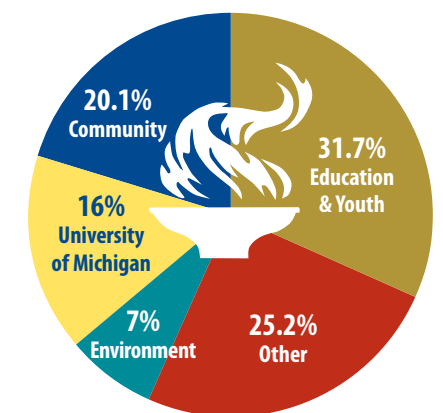
Additional Financials	
Administration & Associated Costs	\$299,262
Office Expenses and Memberships	\$61,739
Professional Services & Fees	\$22,907
Communications	\$3,839
Other Grants	\$5,000

Total Disbursements	\$969,089
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### Learn more...

Go to [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org](https://www.cookfamilyfoundation.org) to find out more about:

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



*In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$5.4 million dollars in four primary areas.*



# The Life & Legacy of Bruce Cook

On October 14, 2022 the Foundation’s President, Bruce Cook, passed away, only a few months short of his 94th birthday.

He was born December 30, 1928 at Memorial Healthcare in Owosso, the son of Donald and Florence-Etta “Cookie” Cook, the benefactors of the Cook Family Foundation. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, his sons Paul and Tom, and four grandchildren.

Bruce was instrumental in the creation of the Cook Family Foundation in 1978, and assisted his parents with the Foundation’s first grants. Upon his retirement from Wolverine Sign in 2009, he volunteered as the full-time President of the Cook Family Foundation. Bruce actively recruited students to the University of Michigan, and helped award more than 885 scholarships to students from the greater Shiawassee County region.

Bruce Cook was a founding board member of the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, and an emeritus board member of the Shiawassee Family YMCA, and State YMCA of



*Jacqueline and Bruce Cook*

Michigan. He believed strongly in the work of local nonprofit organizations, and volunteered with – and personally donated to – a large number of community and civic causes.

Bruce’s philosophy and motivation for his philanthropy are explained, in his own words, in a video available on the Foundation’s website: [cookfamilyfoundation.org/overview/](http://cookfamilyfoundation.org/overview/)

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