



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2025

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
Ken Algozin, Trustee
Tom Cook, Trustee
Anna Owens, Trustee
Susie Phillips, Trustee
Matt Van Epps, Trustee

STAFF

Tom Cook, Co-Executive Director
Anna Owens, Co-Executive Director
Yvette Collard, Director of Scholarships
Rachel Osmer, Associate Director
Lorraine Austin, Executive Assistant



CONTACT US

P.O. Box 278
Owosso, Michigan 48867
Ph: 989.725.1621
tom@cookfamilyfoundation.org
www.cookfamilyfoundation.org

Photography: The Matteson's Photography
Graphic Design: Amber L. Fuller
Printing: PrintComm

A Foundation for a Better Tomorrow

2024 Cook Family Foundation Infrastructure Grants

infrastructure noun
in·fra·struc·ture

Infrastructure refers to the physical, social, and economic systems that **support** an organization or a society as a whole.



For more than two decades, the Cook family foundation has helped our local Nonprofits build infrastructure, both in terms of facilities and by developing the inherent talents of their passionate staff and volunteers. This past year was no different.

Here we highlight three recent infrastructure grants awarded by the Foundation:

► Lebowsky Center Lights and Sound Upgrade

Showing and telling a better story

You can't put a show on stage without technology, and the ticket sales from plays, musical performances and other events are critical to the financial success of the Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts. A grant from the Foundation to replace old stage lighting and audio equipment allows the Lebowsky Center to put on high quality productions and direct future revenues to other projects, such as new stage flooring and bathroom upgrades.

(Continued on Page 2)



Lebowsky's Foundation funding was used to purchase new sound equipment and new stage lighting, in addition to offering training to their new executive director.

(Lebowsky Center continued from Page 1)

In addition, the Foundation has supported strategic planning and other capacity building by the Lebowsky Center board and staff members. For example, their new executive director, Amy Jo Brown, was able to attend an Executive Director Academy to help her better understand the responsibilities of her new role.



Executive Director Hannah Gottschalk, along with SafeCenter's clients, visitors, and other staff, benefit from the grant-funded improvements to their driveway, as well as the functioning of their organization.

► SafeCenter Driveway *Paving the way to a greater impact*

In 2024, the decaying driveway of the SafeCenter was truly a hazard. Due to the slope of the driveway and poor drainage, water run-off was flowing and pooling directly into the storage areas of their emergency shelter. Grant money provided by The Cook Family Foundation allowed the SafeCenter to renovate the entire driveway and drainage system.

But a strong organization takes more than concrete.

“The SafeCenter has also been investing in diversifying revenue streams and deepening relationships with donors so they may sustain, grow, and expand essential services that help survivors of domestic violence,” said Regina Pinney, executive director of the Nonprofit Network. “The Cook Family Foundation, in partnership with the Nonprofit Network, also funds these types of efforts with many area Nonprofits to help assure organizational long-term success.”



Staff member Ruth Nick and the entire Respite team have benefited from not only new technology, but from Foundation-funded assistance to help them better communicate their mission.

► Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee Computers *Uploading future impact*

The frustration of using an old computer isn't foreign to most in the nonprofit world.

“With the generous technology grant funding from the Foundation this past year, we purchased five new computers for our staff,” said Respite’s Executive Director Helen Howard, RN, BSN. Rather than using limited dollars over several years, upgrading all the computers at once allowed them to serve their clients and volunteers now, and protected their budget for other program needs. “In addition,” said Howard, “we were able to hire professionals to create 30 second and two minute videos to share our important work with the community.”

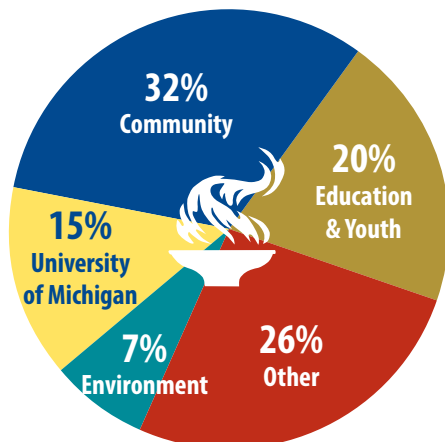
THE COOK FAMILY FOUNDATION supports our local charitable nonprofit community as nonpartisan in law, fact, and purpose. Our society is better because people with different ideas and backgrounds can come together through nonprofit organizations to address community concerns.



2024 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 2024.

Community Organizations	\$1,544,717
Shiawassee Family YMCA Legacy Gift	\$1,000,000
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts	\$83,562
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$75,734
SafeCenter	\$70,000
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$50,000
Shiawassee Arts Center	\$45,500
Voices for Children	\$40,000
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$40,000
United Way Shiawassee (staffing)	\$35,000
Village of Byron Pocket Park	\$25,000
Durand Union Station, Inc.	\$16,500
Shiawassee Humane Society	\$15,000
Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee	\$15,000
Friends of the Shiawassee River	\$10,000
Shiawassee Health Dept. (menstrual products)	\$9,795
Shiawassee Food Access to Food Pantries	\$6,000
Shiawassee Hope	\$5,500
Girls on the Run - Mid Michigan	\$2,126
University of Michigan	\$278,389
Scholarships - Ann Arbor	\$113,519
Scholarships - Flint	\$84,000
Scholarship Support	\$45,870
Shiawassee Area Interns	\$35,000
Education and Youth	\$303,847
Owosso Public Schools - Agriscience Building	\$132,000
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$45,000
Shiawassee Regional Education Services District	
Shiawassee Scholars Program	\$85,000
Early College Program	\$27,847
Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$14,000
Environment	\$196,759
James Miner Trail	\$70,000
Saginaw Bay WIN	\$60,000
Recycling Planning	\$18,969
Six Rivers Land Conservancy	\$10,595
Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy	\$10,000
Mid Michigan Land Conservancy	\$10,000
Huron Pines (One Water Gathering)	\$10,000
Other Environmental Grants	\$7,195
Additional Financials	
Administration & Associated Costs	\$341,910
Office Expenses and Memberships	\$81,800
Professional Services & Fees	\$18,671
Other Grants	\$28,195
Communications	\$6,654
Total Disbursements	\$2,800,942



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$5 million dollars in four primary areas.

Learn more...

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

- **Scholarship Information**
- **Grant Criteria**
- **Grant Application**
- **Nonprofit Capacity Building Program**
- **Collaboration**
- **Fellows Internship Program**
- **Events**



The
**Cook Family
Foundation**

P.O. Box 278

Owosso, MI 48867

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

Inside:

A Foundation for a Better Tomorrow –
2024 Cook Family Foundation Infrastructure Grants

2024 Grants

Welcome to the Family

Look for Us
on Facebook
and Instagram!

Welcome to the “Family”

Anna Owens and Tom Cook now share the Foundation’s executive director position. After 27 years in this role, Tom is getting the help of his spouse, who is using her complementary skills to spearhead new community endeavors. Together, along with an active board, they will direct the Foundation’s work.

Rachel Osmer, our new Associate Director, will support the Foundation’s nonprofit partners, assist with U of M collaborations, and champion emerging Foundation initiatives. As a newly elected Owosso City Council member, Rachel is especially aware of our community’s needs and concerns.

Lorraine Austin joins the team as Executive Assistant to support the Foundation’s increasing workload. Currently, she focuses on the recycling workgroup and environmental initiatives along with general Foundation organizational tasks.

Ken Algozin has joined the board of Paul Cook, Tom Cook, Anna Owens, Bailey Leppert, Susie Phillips, and Matt Van Epps. Ken, an accomplished conservationist, brings expertise to the Foundation’s environmental programming and financial oversight.



BOARD (from left to right): Susie Phillips, trustee; Bailey Leppert, secretary/treasurer; Paul Cook, president; Tom Cook, trustee; Ken Algozin, trustee; Anna Owens, trustee; Matt Van Epps, trustee.



STAFF (from left to right): Rachel Osmer, associate director; Lorraine Austin, executive assistant; Tom Cook, co-executive director; Anna Owens, co-executive director; Yvette Collard, director of scholarships.