Giving Together
Grant Catalog

Spring 2015 Responsive Cycle

Thank you for your interest in the spring responsive grant cycle at the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

We are thrilled to share that together we granted nearly $200,000 to meet needs and advance opportunities in the community. Donors to the Fund for the Community and the Fund for Youth, together with donors who hold advised funds at the Community Foundation, responded to needs of our nonprofit partners in order to improve the quality of life for friends and neighbors in Emmet County.

Thank you for your interest and support!
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Fund for the Community
The Fund for the Community provides the Community Foundation with flexible grantmaking dollars to support the broad range of changing needs in the community.

Fund for Youth
The Fund for Youth provides our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) with grantmaking dollars to support youth programs in our community.

Applicant: Bay View Association
Program or Project: Outreach Concerts as part of Centennial Celebration
Amount Requested: $5,000  Total Project Cost: $42,800
Brief Description: Each summer season, Bay View presents public religious, cultural, educational, and recreational programs. A highlight of the 2015 summer season will be a centennial celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the historic John M. Hall Auditorium. This two-week celebration will include free outreach concerts focused on the American Spiritual and a fully staged production of the historically-based musical ‘Ragtime’ on July 23-25. In order to deepen the historical connections present in Ragtime, this grant request would support the production of a series of free, public presentations in Charlevoix and Emmet counties, educating audiences through a musical 'informance'.

Applicant: Big Brother/Big Sisters of NW MI
Program or Project: Program Technology Upgrade
Amount Requested: $5,000  Total Project Cost: $25,000
Brief Description: BBBS provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better. The purpose of this project is to upgrade program technology in order to utilize newly required Agency Information Management System (AIM) program database to its fullest. These upgrades will allow BBBS to better track and support mentoring relationships; more efficiently work in the field (schools) where the majority of mentoring relationships take place; address child safety concerns first hand; document monthly support contacts; and to ultimately serve more children.

Applicant: Blissfest Music Organization
Program or Project: Arts Center Sound & Light System
Amount Requested: $4,250  Total Project Cost: $8,500
Brief Description: This spring the Blissfest Arts Center Building will be open to support increased year round programming at the Bliss site. The new arts assembly building will provide 2,000 sq. ft. of performance, education, and gathering space to further the mission. This request is to help support the acquisition of an energy efficient sound system and energy efficient stage lights for the new facility. This will expand on the annual festival to provide an environment for music education, to foster creativity, and add quality of life experiences for residents and visitors alike.
Applicant: Camp Daggett
Program or Project: Maintenance Broom for Recreational Courts
Amount Requested: $2,000  Total Project Cost: $4,577
Brief Description: A broom attachment for the tractor would reduce the amount of sand being tracked into the cabins and lodge, which causes accelerated wear on the floors and finishes. In addition, by keeping the sand off of the paved areas like drives and courts, it will prolong the life of the pavement as well.

Applicant: Child & Family Services of Northwestern MI
Program or Project: Foster Family Respite/Retention
Amount Requested: $6,552  Total Project Cost: $6,552
Brief Description: Child and Family Services strives to assure the safety and well-being of children, youth, adults, and families in times of crisis, challenge, and life transition. This request would support foster family respite and retention efforts, primarily through a series of fun activities throughout the year, and for materials to facilitate the healing and growth of children in care. Past respite activities include bowling, a summer picnic, a harvest meal with square dancing, a bonfire at Bliss Farm Gardens, a December holiday party, and a trip to Mackinac Island. Children's craft activities are typically a part of these events as well as a part of the treatment for children who respond to art therapy.

Applicant: City of Harbor Springs
Program or Project: Wayfinding Analysis Project
Amount Requested: $4,000  Total Project Cost: $8,000
Brief Description: The Downtown Development Authority of Harbor Springs identified wayfinding within the downtown area as a priority project for implementation. Visitor's Bureau data shows that this area sees 1.3 million visitors annually, so while Harbor Springs does not appear to be difficult to navigate, a wayfinding system will enhance the experience of all those visitors by increasing their comfort level and encouraging them to participate in special events, attractions, and destinations. This request would support the first step in the wayfinding project - an analysis of top public destinations and routes to downtown. The report will show preferred vehicular and pedestrian routes, destinations included in the wayfinding program, preliminary sign locations and an estimated cost for implementation of these recommendations.

Applicant: City of Petoskey
Program or Project: Tennis Court Complex Renovation
Amount Requested: $13,000  Total Project Cost: $255,000
Brief Description: The City, Public Schools of Petoskey, and the Petoskey Community Courts organization have joined together to renovate the Outdoor Six Lighted Tennis Court Complex, which was originally constructed in 1972. The courts have served the community long past the expectancy and now require major renovation, including replacement of the court foundation, surfaces, and fencing along with creating accessible van parking spaces, related walks and a drinking fountain to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. A millage will devote $137,500 toward the tennis court project. In addition, the group has raised close to $50,000 from individuals, families, businesses, service organizations, and foundations who wish to make these courts available for public and school use for youth and adult tennis.
Applicant: Crooked Tree Arts Center  
Program or Project: Kitchen Renovation  
Amount Requested: $15,000  
Total Project Cost: $111,040  
Brief Description: CTAC intends to renovate the existing kitchen in the downtown Petoskey building. The kitchen renovation is a priority due to daily use for meetings, classes, and catering. In a typical week over 300 people use the space, which has out-of-date appliances that are not energy efficient, an improperly vented stove, plumbing that freezes in the winter, and window seals that are all compromised. The renovation would address these issues, in addition to accessibility. This request would be applied to a $55,520 matching grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for the project and would impact culinary classes, meetings, kitchen space for other organizations that rent spaces in the Arts Center, and catering for events held at CTAC.

Applicant: Department of Human Services  
Program or Project: Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative  
Amount Requested: $3,000  
Total Project Cost: $16,150  
Brief Description: The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative aims to provide each youth in the program opportunities to learn the skills and supports necessary to transition successfully from foster care to adulthood. At any given time, there are approximately 100 children in foster care in Charlevoix and Emmet counties and a quarter to third of those are teens or young adults aging out of the system. The program offers elements that impact the lives of those young people such as Financial Capability Training, Asset trainings that assist the youth in learning independent living skills like purchasing a car or renting an apartment, Earnings which offers youth a stipend for participation that is deposited directly into a bank account to help them save, and Banking to develop experience and skills in the banking system. The goal of the program is to improve outcomes for youth in key areas like education, physical and mental health, employment, and permanence.

Applicant: Disability Network of Northern Michigan  
Program or Project: Zorn Beach Access Project  
Amount Requested: $5,000  
Total Project Cost: $6,000  
Brief Description: This project is part of Disability Network's "Access for Everyone" Campaign, which provides universal access to parks, beaches, trails, and public spaces so everyone has the ability to participate in recreational opportunities. The Zorn Beach Access Project consists of purchasing one 50’x5’ Mobility Mat and one Mobility Chair so visitors with disabilities and mobility challenges may enjoy Little Traverse Bay - including people who use wheelchairs or walkers, families with young children, and pedestrians who struggle with balance.

Applicant: Farming for Our Future  
Program or Project: Girls Can Farm  
Amount Requested: $1,000  
Total Project Cost: $1,500  
Brief Description: Farming For Our Future was established in 2010 in order to increase awareness of, and access to, local foods with an emphasis on education for school age children. This request would support an opportunity for middle school aged girls to experience serious, hands-on farm work. Groups of two to four girls will be matched with one of the female interns at Pond Hill Farm to provide an up close look at farming, a chance to talk to and work with women who have already chosen this career path, and allow them to fully experience life on a farm.
Applicant: Friendship Centers of Emmet County
Program or Project: Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
Amount Requested: $2,480  Total Project Cost: $5,400
Brief Description: The Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program educates low-income seniors ages 60 and older about proper nutrition, encourages them to increase daily consumption of fruits and vegetables in support of a healthier lifestyle, and distributes $20 coupons redeemable at local farmers markets during the summer months for the acquisition of locally grown fresh produce. This request would provide coupons to 270 seniors for whom fresh fruits and vegetables can feel out of reach, as well as benefit local farmers, who have voiced gratitude for the additional revenue this program brings to their seasonal business.

Applicant: Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra
Program or Project: New Beginnings - Community Outreach
Amount Requested: $8,000  Total Project Cost: $13,000
Brief Description: This request seeks funding to support Community Outreach Concerts to extend the 2014/2015 "New Beginnings" season by presenting "Divine Illuminance" at Bay View, plus several small ensemble performances at various venues. This collaboration with Bay View would be an expansion into summer performances for the GLCO, which was highlighted as an important opportunity in a recent organizational assessment.

Applicant: Great Start Collaborative
Program or Project: Great Start Preschool Scholarships
Amount Requested: $7,500  Total Project Cost: $55,000
Brief Description: The purpose of this project is to engage economically disadvantaged three to five year olds, who are at risk of not achieving school success, by providing scholarships of up to 100% for one year of quality programming to participating childcare/preschool sites. The entire family will benefit through resource and referral assistance as well as community education opportunities. This project works as a complement to the federally funded Head Start program, which maintains a waiting list of qualified children. This request would support a minimum of 8 children on that wait list. As an additional outcome of this work, the quality childcare partners will receive education and support on best practices according to the Great Start to Quality Rating System.

Applicant: Habitat for Humanity
Program or Project: Improving Outreach to Potential Partner Families
Amount Requested: $3,893  Total Project Cost: $18,500
Brief Description: Habitat services include new home construction, weatherization, critical repairs, and exterior home refurbishment for lower income families. This request aims to more effectively locate and qualify lower income families in need of affordable housing. Habitat would like to hire an AmeriCorps Volunteer to incorporate recent changes to the national Habitat service model and recent tightening of federal lending regulations in order to manage, create, and deliver substantial, targeted outreach and engagement initiatives that locate, qualify, and support those who could be potential Habitat Partner families.
Applicant: Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra  
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Applicant: Emmet County  
Program or Project: Essence of Emmet magazine series, Part III  
Amount Requested: $5,000  
Total Project Cost: $18,000  
Brief Description: The Essence of Emmet Collaborative is a group of about a dozen history-oriented organizations who work together year after year to find ways to make history interesting, relevant, and even fun for residents and visitors alike. This group is writing, editing, and designing a four-volume magazine series of the same name detailing the history of Emmet County and its people. Two previous editions have been so well received that the group would like to increase the number of magazines printed for the third installment. This request would help to offset the printing costs of this edition, which will cover the timeframe of 1918 - 1960.
Applicant: Harbor Springs Area Historical Society  
Program or Project: Uncovering Family Histories: Genealogy Program Upgrades  
Amount Requested: $3,000  
Total Project Cost: $6,000  
Brief Description: The Historical Society works to connect people with the past, and because personal connections are often the most powerful, this project focuses on improving the genealogy program. In 2013, with grant support from the Community Foundation, individuals and families could access Ancestry.com at the Museum. HSAHS aims to increase awareness and usage of this free resource that connects people with their personal history by upgrading two dedicated computer workstations, promoting the free access offered at the Museum, and adding genealogy to year-round programming.

Applicant: Harbor Springs Chamber Foundation  
Program or Project: Street Musique Young and Emerging Artists  
Amount Requested: $2,500  
Total Project Cost: $21,400  
Brief Description: This request is an opportunity to expand and build upon a thriving program in Harbor Springs. Street Musique was started as a way to bring locals and visitors out to enjoy the beautiful Harbor Springs experience on weeknights throughout the summer months. The program features solo, duo, and small ensemble live music on Thursdays from late June through Labor Day, as well as a children's act and face painters that make it a family experience. The event has grown steadily over the years and after initial grant support through the Community Foundation has been sustainable through local business sponsorships and individual donations. As local businesses and restaurants push the edge of the downtown core, planners of Street Musique want to be sure that all businesses feel included in the programming - and also take advantage of new public space on the waterfront for larger groups of musicians. This support would move the program from four musician locations to five, which would include a location for local youth and emerging musicians.

Applicant: Health Department of Northwest Michigan  
Program or Project: Universal Screening for Early Childhood Behavioral Health  
Amount Requested: $5,000  
Total Project Cost: $12,000  
Brief Description: The initiative was established to enhance the availability of, and access to, behavioral health services for children ages 0-5 and their families in Charlevoix, Emmet, and Northern Antrim counties through three specific community services along with working with other agencies to promote social emotional health in our area. The three services include Parent Support Partner Program, Early Childhood Networking Nights, and Universal Screening Program. The Universal Screening Program uses pilot sites to provide early and accurate identification of infants and young children who have developmental delays, disorders, or social emotional concerns and to connect them with appropriate services. This request seeks to increase the outreach of the program for more availability to residents and more opportunity to identify and connect families with appropriate early intervention services. Methods will include maintaining 8 current sites and launching two additional sites; promoting the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, available online, at community events; providing a screening day to assist families with the screening tool. The overall goal is to increase the number of screens by 15% in 2015 (900 screens).
**Applicant: Health Department of Northwest Michigan**

Program or Project: Hornet Health Center  
Priority: Access to Drinking Water  
Amount Requested: $5,000  
Total Project Cost: $10,000  

Brief Description: The Hornet Health Center is a school-based health center, operated by the Health Department in partnership with Pellston Public Schools, which offers services to anyone aged 5 to 21 (and their children). The HHC is guided by a youth advisory committee that meets regularly to provide youth guidance on all areas of operations and outreach. Last year the committee observed that many students do not drink water from the water fountains at school due to the taste and color. In a survey of 244 of their classmates, they found that only 35% of the students reported that they drink the water. The Health Department consulted with their Environmental Health division, who found that the water was safe to drink. The presence of minerals like iron likely contributed to the taste of the water. The committee, HHC staff, and Pellston administration have worked together on a solution that will retrofit two existing drinking fountains with water filtration units that filter the water and allow for water bottle filling. This funding would also purchase water filters for the units as well as a water bottle for each student to encourage improved hydration.

**Applicant: Hospice of Northwest Michigan**

Program or Project: Essential Needs Fund  
Amount Requested: $4,000  
Total Project Cost: $5,000  

Brief Description: Hospice provides support and care for patients and their families during and following life-limiting illness. The organization also offers bereavement and grief support services for families and the community. This request would establish an Essential Needs Fund to be used primarily in situations where temporary safe transitional living arrangements are needed due to unexpected or rapid decline or for short term respite care for a patient in order to provide the caregivers in crisis a break. The fund would also be used in situations when there is no life insurance or finances available to assist the family with basic burial care costs. The fund would be accessed after all other avenues for assistance have been explored and exhausted in order to provide for families during a very stressful, sad, and overwhelming time without gaps in service.

**Applicant: Inland Seas Education Association**

Program or Project: Young People in Science  
Amount Requested: $2,160  
Total Project Cost: $21,650  

Brief Description: ISEA works to help people of all ages experience the science and spirit of the Great Lakes through hands-on, experiential learning activities. ISEA intends to host one Young Men in Science and two Young Women in Science programs during the 2015 season. These programs offer the opportunity for 30 high school students to experience the Great Lakes in new ways, as both a scientist and a crewmember onboard the schooner ship. During this two-day, one night overnight program, students will conduct research projects related to the ecology of Lake Michigan; record weather observations, and present a short research report to family, friends, and community members at the culmination of the sail. These funds would provide full student scholarships to cover the participant fee for three young men and three young women from Emmet County.
Applicant: Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design
Program or Project: Farmer-to-Farmer Learning and Networking Nights
Amount Requested: $3,680   Total Project Cost: $4,180
Brief Description: The advisory board of the ISLAND Small Farm Guild identified a need for Emmet County farmers to learn from each other through farmer-to-farmer learning and networking. This need was proven in the Little Traverse Bay area by strong attendance at each of the tours held in 2014. The advisory board would like to continue the success of this farmer-to-farmer networking, enhancing this year’s effort by focusing on farms with a viable business model where the farmer is able to sustain a living without an off-farm job. This request would also support a Meet the Buyer/Grower event that will serve as a marketing and business networking opportunity including qualified farmers, value-added food producers, and chefs in order to facilitate one-on-one meetings and tastings between local vendors and prospective buyers. Both of these efforts impact various aspects of health, the local economy, and farmland preservation in our area.

Applicant: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes
Program or Project: Providing Students with Economic and Financial Literacy Skills
Amount Requested: $4,200   Total Project Cost: $31,800
Brief Description: Junior Achievement programs give students a better understanding of real world economics, how it applies to their everyday lives and will inspire students to develop competitive skills and confidence. This is accomplished by a volunteer from the business community visiting a classroom for five sessions of 30-45 minutes of hands-on learning. This request will allow for seven new K-8 classrooms (or 175 students) that have been requested by teachers in Emmet County to receive a Junior Achievement program.

Applicant: Little Traverse Civic Theatre
Program or Project: Technology Upgrade
Amount Requested: $1,485   Total Project Cost: $1,485
Brief Description: LTCT relies solely on volunteers to perform all aspects of managing, directing, and producing theatre productions for the education and entertainment of our community. In order to maintain consistent management of the organization, this request would purchase a new desktop computer for the LTCT office as a central location for all files to ensure they are available to all board members and committee chairpersons on an ongoing basis. All financial data will also be in this location, which will be necessarily separated from the second purchase, a laptop computer and touch screen monitor. This piece of equipment would allow for patrons to purchase tickets online through MyNorth.com, the ticketing program also used by Crooked Tree Arts Center. In addition to making tickets available to patrons at their convenience, the online ticketing platform would solve LTCT’s difficulty engaging volunteers to staff the box office for two weeks prior to and during the 10-day run of performances.
**Applicant: Little Traverse Conservancy**  
Program or Project: Snowmobile to Enhance Winter Trails  
Amount Requested: $7,000  
Total Project Cost: $12,000  
Brief Description: Preliminary data based on monitoring and evaluation of preserve and trail use indicates that LTC can dramatically increase the annual use of certain preserves by accommodating winter use. In order to expand this free recreational opportunity on Conservancy lands, they aim to purchase a snowmobile to pull the grooming equipment which LTC already owns. This purchase would allow for increased capacity to groom trails for cross country skiing and as well as snowshoeing and fat tire biking in preserves that best accommodate those winter recreation activities.

**Applicant: Mackinaw Area Historical Society**  
Program or Project: Discover Camp  
Amount Requested: $1,710  
Total Project Cost: $2,910  
Brief Description: Discovery Camp is designed for children, grades 4 through 8, to learn locally about history, science, and the arts through a variety of local field trips and compatible educational activities in late June. Activities will include a visit to the Mackinaw Bridge Authority, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, Fort Michilimackinac and Heritage Village. Each day will include weather observations, tracking and communicating with a freighter on the great lakes, arts projects, and journaling about all the day's experiences. Teachings will include musical instruction, cultural history - both European settler and Native American, and art projects which illustrate science, engineering, history, and creativity. The Camp will primarily be marketed to Emmet County since Cheboygan History Center has a camp for the Cheboygan area.

**Applicant: Manna Food Project**  
Program or Project: Food 4 Kids Backpack Program  
Amount Requested: $8,000  
Total Project Cost: $193,370  
Brief Description: This program provides shelf-stable, nutritious food for children who otherwise may not have enough to eat over the weekend when they are not receiving school breakfasts and lunches. Students are eligible for the program if they qualify for free and reduced meals through the National School Lunch Program. The school determines participation in the program. Manna delivers the backpacks to the schools each week. Manna is currently delivering 1,825 backpacks each week to elementary schools and Head Start programs in Emmet, Charlevoix and Antrim counties.  
This support will go toward purchasing food for the children.

**Applicant: Northern Lakes Economic Alliance**  
Program or Project: CNC ‘Fab Lab’ program for Pellston High School students  
Amount Requested: $8,304  
Total Project Cost: $10,554  
Brief Description: This request would support a manufacturing technology program for students at Pellston High Schools, utilizing the mobile Manufacturing CNC Lab, known as the 'Fab Lab', provided by North Central Michigan College. This Computer Numeric Control (CNC) program would be provided for 12 students during the 2015-2016 high school year. Students will achieve 6 credit hours of manufacturing technology high school/college credit that will make them employable immediately upon high school graduation. This program is currently available at Central Lake, East Jordan, and Boyne City high schools.
**Applicant: Northern Michigan Equine Therapy**

Program or Project: Improved Accessibility Project  
Amount Requested: $4,000  Total Project Cost: $12,000

**Brief Description:** NMET is dedicated to using the healing nature of a horse as a therapeutic tool to enhance independence, self confidence, and quality of life. With a horse's guidance and support, the hippotherapy program, HorseSense, and at-risk youth programs are offered by licensed professionals and equine specialists to provide the best quality of service to those in need. This request aims to improve accessibility for clients with physical disabilities by building a covered permanent wheelchair ramp to aid clients in mounting their horse for therapy. Currently staff walk or carry clients up stairs to the mounting block, which is uncomfortable and unsafe for all involved. There are also safety concerns as the client must rely on the strength of others to properly place them on their horse. This current set up cannot accommodate those in electric wheelchairs or those who staff cannot lift onto the mounting ramp. This current set up cannot accommodate those in electric wheelchairs or those who staff cannot lift onto the mounting ramp. This improvement would protect clients from harsh weather, provide a safe environment for clients, staff, and horses, as well as giving all clients the opportunity to participate in this effective style of therapy.

**Applicant: Pellston Public Schools**

Program or Project: High School Welding/Brazing Program  
Amount Requested: $11,497  Total Project Cost: $136,806

**Brief Description:** The response to a survey of testing students' interest in an introductory welding course was overwhelming, with so many students interested in taking welding as an elective that Pellston High School needed to prioritize which students to enroll first. There are currently no welding programs offered within the Intermediate School District. Pellston Public Schools, in an ongoing effort to develop partnerships with local businesses, has teamed with Jervis Webb Co. in a pilot program where students are released to train at that site. This request would help to purchase equipment for an introductory course focusing on the fundamentals of welding at Pellston High School. The district has already invested over $50,000 into classroom instruction, modifications, and equipment for this new program in phase 1. Through the Char-Em ISD Career and Technical Education Consortium, this program will benefit not only students at Pellston Public Schools, but also any interested students from surrounding school districts.

**Applicant: Petoskey District Library**

Program or Project: Update Patron Technology  
Amount Requested: $12,000  Total Project Cost: $32,500

**Brief Description:** Although the library has a written technology plan, in recent years it has not been incorporated into the budget. Under new leadership, the library aims to make upgrades to the equipment available to patrons while also planning for future expenditures as they budget for the next fiscal year. Currently, most patron computers are eight years old and running on a Windows platform that can no longer be updated. They are slow, unreliable, and very frustrating for patrons to use. Technology is vital to the health of a public library - 90% of patrons come in for books, but also for a multitude of other personal purposes - business, taxes, unemployment, and health resources, to name a few. This request would support the priority of updating the majority of the computers to make it easier for patrons to use equipment as well as prepare staff to teach patrons to use new technologies.
Applicant: Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan
Program or Project: Outreach and Innovation Expansion Project
Amount Requested: $8,000  Total Project Cost: $24,343
Brief Description: Based on the successful outcomes of this previously funded project, PPWNM intends to serve 800 at-risk community members who are low-income and or uninsured between the ages of 18 - 44 with information on how to take care of their bodies, prevent sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. This will be accomplished by interacting with the people who need our services by participating in community events and collaborating with other community organizations. Based on last year's feedback, PPWNM will make adjustments and add to the personal care kits that are distributed at widely attended events like Blissfest and Project Connect.

Applicant: Raven Hill Discovery Center
Program or Project: Visits to Preschool Classrooms and Professional Development for Teachers
Amount Requested: $5,000  Total Project Cost: $10,000
Brief Description: The goal of RHDC's onsite and outreach programs is to encourage a life-long love of learning, especially science, history, and art. This request will focus on preschool children and their teachers by engaging them in the basic skills of observing, classifying, measuring, and investigating. Raven Hill staff will visit early childhood classrooms, centers, and home providers in addition to providing a professional development workshop for early childhood teachers, paraprofessionals, and providers during the fall of 2015.

Applicant: Spirit Day Camp
Program or Project: Spirit Day Camp
Amount Requested: $5,000  Total Project Cost: $22,500
Brief Description: For over thirty years, Spirit Day Camp has provided community-based recreation, cultural, and educational experiences to children and adults with developmental disabilities. The mission of the camp is to provide access to community resources in an inclusive environment for our participants while building relationships between individuals with and without physical and mental challenges. This request would support the costs of transportation, fees and supplies necessary to visit places like Mackinaw Island, Big Bear Adventures, Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf, Boyne Highlands and the Young Americans, and more.

Applicant: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Program or Project: Waganakising Bay Day water festival
Amount Requested: $5,900  Total Project Cost: $7,450
Brief Description: Waganakising Bay Day aims to spread environmental awareness and stewardship of the Little Traverse Bay Watershed and create a sense of community pride through a water experience and celebration. The Watershed Council is partnering with several community organizations to host this water festival on June 28, 2015. This request would support the Watershed Council's efforts in the planning and implementation of the festival as well as provide educational experiences through interactive exhibits and activities about freshwater topics.
Applicant: Village of Pellston  
Program or Project: Playground Improvements at Pioneer Park  
Amount Requested: $8,000  
Total Project Cost: $28,995  
Brief Description: Pioneer Park is a well-used park that is heavily used throughout the late spring and summer when the baseball and softball fields are in use. The current playground equipment is over 40 years old and in serious disrepair. The only other park in Pellston is at the elementary school, which is across the federal highway that runs through the center of the Village, which children on the west side of the Village cannot safely access. This request would support the replacement of existing equipment with a playground that meets current safety standards, provides a playspace for children, and a place for the community to gather.

Applicant: Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy  
Program or Project: Communications Solutions  
Amount Requested: $4,850  
Total Project Cost: $13,700  
Brief Description: Last year WLTC took on a year-long project in which the board explored the Conservancy's community: founders, key stakeholders, partners, and those who they have yet to reach. This facilitated conversation showed the strong need for a strategic communications or public relations plan. In response, WLTC has created a Communications and Outreach Committee and contracted with Lake Street Associates to develop that plan to build on recent efforts and take the organization into 2017. This request would support the activities proposed for the first year, including developing a Conservancy website, creating a small suite of printed and digital tools to reach desired audiences for this upcoming season, and to support this work with people-power. With this project and others, the Conservancy will build their constituency in order to better meet the mission of preserving and protecting the quality of Walloon Lake and its watershed for current and future generations.