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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MANISTEE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SPRING GRANT CYCLE  
AWARDS TOTALING MORE THAN \$314,000**

**Manistee, Michigan** - The Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) is pleased to announce the recipients of 21 grants awarded during its Spring 2025 Grant Cycle totaling more than \$314,000. The grants support projects and programs that will enhance the quality of life for Manistee County residents as well as enhance and expand recreational opportunities across Manistee County, today and for future generations.

"The Foundation is proud to make these investments in our community, made possible through the generosity of our donors," shared Laura Heintzelman, President & CEO. "On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I extend our deep appreciation to both the grant recipients and our contributors. We look forward to seeing the multitude of ways that these projects will enhance the lives of our residents and strengthen our community."

The following 7 grant awards, totaling \$246,620 were funded by the MCCF Minger Family Endowment Fund, established in 2017 through the remarkable generosity of Forest R. Minger, Jr. to enhance and expand access to recreation and recreational opportunities in Manistee County.

- \$61,200 to Arcadia Township for Phase 2 of the Recreation Development Initiative Project to provide natural dune stabilization and wayfinding for enhanced community access to public recreation and water.
- \$19,490 to Shoreline Cycling Club for the Non-Motorized Trail Park Grooming Sled and Shed Project to improve and protect equipment for cross-country ski grooming on the trails of the City of Manistee non-motorized trail park located in Manistee Township.
- \$99,180 to the Village of Bear Lake for the Hopkins Park Playground Project to provide a place to play for the youngest community members, accessible to all, and located in the heart of Bear Lake.
- \$9,450 to Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club for the 2025 SWCC Kids Field Camp to provide more opportunities to introduce Manistee County youth to nature and outdoor

recreation at the club's publicly accessible 42-acre preserve along Bear Creek in Dickson Township.

- \$3,800 to Manistee County Recreation Commission for Lifejacket Replenishment to help provide opportunities for safe water recreation at the seven lifejacket loaner stations located across Manistee County.
- \$13,500 to City of Manistee Housing Commission for the CMHC Shoreline Access Feasibility Study Project to study the possibility of increased access for outdoor recreational amenities to support use by Century Terrace / Harborview Apartments and the community.
- \$40,000 to Pleasant Valley Community Center for the PVCC Campus and Building Plan Discovery Project to seek community input and develop improvements for the Community Center.

In addition, fourteen grants totaling \$67,735 were funded through the Foundation's Limitless Fund and a number of other funds of the Foundation, as noted below. The Limitless Fund was established in 2016 through the leadership of an anonymous donor who wanted to enable the Foundation flexibility to respond to a broader array of community needs and opportunities. The Limitless Fund provides strategic support to address the ever-changing needs of Manistee County.

New this year is the inclusion of the Manistee County Youth Endowment Fund and the involvement of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) as part of the MCCF Spring Grant Cycle grantmaking process. The YAC is comprised of high school students from each of Manistee County's school districts who serve as the Foundation's local panel of experts on the needs and issues that face area youth and is the advisory body to the Foundation's Youth Endowment Fund.

- \$2,335 to the Lakeshore Children's Advocacy Center for Trauma-Focused Education to Expand the LCAC Therapy Team for support and training to certify an additional Manistee-area therapist, supported by the MCCF Spirit of Giving Fund.
- \$10,000 to Bear Lake Area Historical Society for the Bear Lake Museum HVAC project to update the boiler system for preservation and protection of the Bear Lake community history collections, supported by the MCCF Limitless Fund.
- \$4,000 to Armory Youth Project for the Winner Within Motivational Speaker Community Event Featuring Kevin Dupree, to provide area students the opportunity to connect with peers and AYP programs, supported by the MCCF Manistee County Youth Endowment Fund and the MCCF Manistee Rotary Education Fund.
- \$5,000 to the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors for the Senior Red Bags - Manistee partnership with Manistee County Council on Aging to provide supplemental, nutrient-rich food for 10 homebound senior households in northern Manistee County, supported by the MCCF Spirit of Giving Fund.
- \$1,800 to the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts for Creativity Art Camp to provide opportunities for development of technical skills and confidence in young artists, supported by the MCCF Karl and Barbara Rowe All Arts and Culture Fund and the MCCF Manistee County Youth Endowment Fund.
- \$10,000 to the Kaleva Historical Society for the Paint the Train Engine at the Kaleva Depot Museum Project to preserve the vibrancy of the circa 1965 Manistee &

Northeastern train engine and enhance Kaleva's rich cultural resources, supported by the MCCF Limitless Fund.

- \$2,000 to Our Saviour's Historical Society / Old Kirke Museum for the First Person Stories and Songs Project to build capacity for sustaining this community based cultural program, supported by the MCCF Manistee County Quality of Life Fund.
- \$3,000 to Manistee Area Public Schools for the MAPS Youth Summer Theatre Camp to provide area students the opportunity to explore all areas of theatre arts, supported by the MCCF Geoffrey Roland Paine Family Charitable Fund and MCCF Spirit of Giving Fund.
- \$8,550 to Manistee County for the US-31 Recycling Plaza Project to provide pre-development work should this \$2.06M facility be federally funded, supported by the MCCF Limitless Fund, MCCF Manistee County Environmental Fund, and the MCCF Donovan and Norma Anderson Fund.
- \$10,000 to the Village of Copemish for the Village Lighting – Light Up Copemish Project to add holiday lighting fixtures for enhancing a sense of place and building community pride, supported by the MCCF Limitless Fund.
- \$5,500 to Manistee Community Music / Manistee Area Community Band for the 2025 Season to provide opportunities for musical performance and enjoyment for all, supported by the MCCF Geoffrey Roland Paine Family Charitable Fund and the MCCF John D. and Michele M. Bueker Music Fund.
- \$1,000 to Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association for the Exterior Safety Railing at the Manistee North Pier Light Project to improve access to the Lighthouse for people to experience maritime history in Manistee County, supported by the MCCF Spirit of Giving Fund.
- \$4,000 to Kaleva Norman Dickson School for KND Life Skills Room partnership with SEEDS EcoSchool to purchase new equipment for cooking and nutrition learning experiences, supported by the MCCF Geoffrey Roland Paine Family Charitable Fund, the MCCF Spirit of Giving Fund, and the MCCF Rotary Education Fund.
- \$550 to Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club for the 2025 SWCC Kids Field Camp to help children learn about and develop an appreciation of outdoor recreation, supported by the MCCF Manistee County Youth Endowment Fund.

The Foundation's 2025 Fall Grant Cycle application deadline is September 15, 2025, and grant awards are anticipated to be announced by November 1, 2025. Grant requests in the amount of \$5,000 or less for consideration under the MCCF Minger Family Endowment Fund may be submitted at any time with funding decisions made within 45 days. Grant Inquiry Forms are welcomed throughout the year. Additional information about the Foundation's grant programs including eligibility criteria, grant guidelines and a Grant Inquiry Form is available on the Foundation's website at <https://manisteefoundation.org>. Interested applicants are also encouraged to contact Foundation staff at (231) 723-7269 or [grants@manisteefoundation.org](mailto:grants@manisteefoundation.org) to discuss their proposal.

Anyone interested in making a charitable contribution to the Foundation to help further expand the Foundation's community impact may contact Foundation staff at (231) 723-7269 or [gifts@manisteefoundation.org](mailto:gifts@manisteefoundation.org) or donate via the Foundation's website [www.manisteefoundation.org](http://www.manisteefoundation.org).

**About the Manistee County Community Foundation:**

The Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF), established in 1987, is a public charity and tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Manistee County – today and in the future. Governed by a diverse Board of Directors comprised of community leaders from across Manistee County, the Foundation serves as a convener and provides leadership to achieve community change, awards grants that address local needs, and builds community endowment. For more information, visit [www.manisteefoundation.org](http://www.manisteefoundation.org).

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**Photo Captions:**

**Betsie Valley Elementary School** Betsie Valley Elementary School children enjoy playground equipment made possible in part by a grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation – Minger Family Endowment Fund.

**Manistee County Habitat for Humanity** Volunteers build ramps for Manistee County residents to enter and exit their homes safely made possible in part by a grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation - Limitless Fund and the Manistee County Community Foundation – Manistee County Quality of Life Fund.